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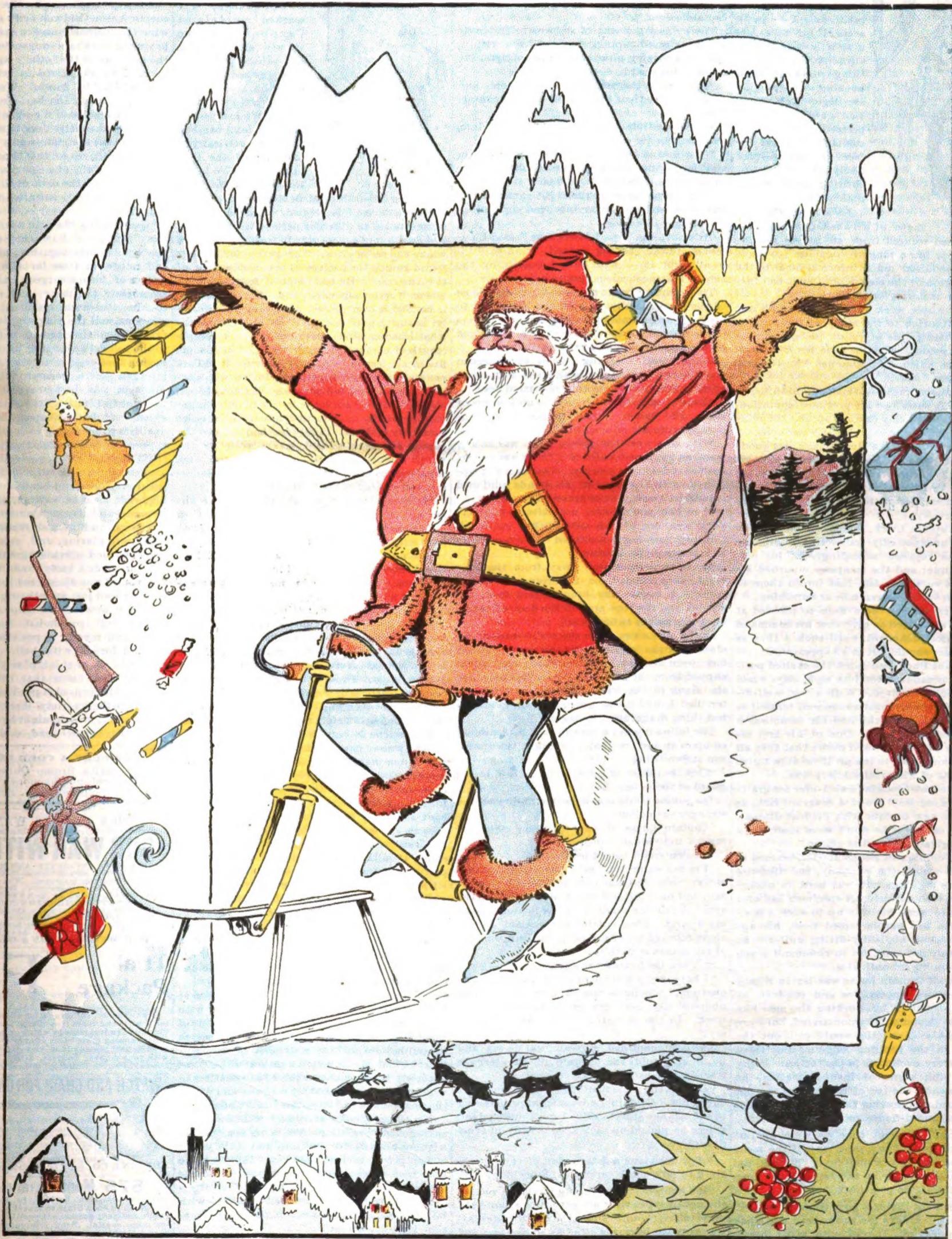
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COMFORT

THE KEY TO A MILLION AND A QUARTER HOMES

NEW YORK AUGUSTA, MAINE BOSTON.

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N. S. Edition.

meant, or what I was thinking about him, but the case was interesting and I was anxious to know more about it. On inquiry I was told that the undertaker had been sent for and doubtless even now had charge of the body. We left the house together and started on foot to the Caldwell residence. Both of the old gentlemen were depressed and not inclined to talk, and I took advantage of the silence to review the facts. The two principals had fired at each other with pistols, loaded by the two seconds. These gentlemen claimed that no bullet had been used. The only other party to the affair was the surgeon who had given the signal to fire, and who had charge of the weapons.

"I asked how the choice of the two pistols had been determined. They said that the surgeon had handed one to each combatant without resorting to lot, or even allowing them a selection. Had the surgeon seemed surprised when Seville Caldwell fell? No, he had not. But then, as he did not know that the seconds had agreed to use blank charges, there was no reason why he should be surprised. I asked if the surgeon and the deceased planter were known to each other. Only a slight acquaintance, they believed. The surgeon was a young man and comparatively little known. Had he been paying his attentions to Miss Caldwell, the daughter of the house? Yes, they had heard something to that effect; mere gossip, probably. Was her father favorable? It was doubtful if he knew anything about it; he had probably never given the young man a thought.

"We arrived at the big, dark house and were admitted by a gray-haired old negro who trembled and snuffled in a way that would have brought tears to your eyes. The body had just been laid out, and removing the cloths from the face the undertaker pointed out the wound. It was small, almost insignificant, and seemed to have been made by a glancing rather than a penetrating blow. A brief examination convinced me that the bone had not suffered; beyond that I could make nothing out of it. I noticed particularly, however, that the lips and nostrils were turning a bluish tint, as though decomposition had already set in. Reverting to the surgeon again I asked whether it was reasonable to suppose that if Mr. Caldwell had known of his intention respecting his daughter he would have approved. The colonel said he thought not; besides there was another claimant for the young lady's hand, the nephew of Mr. Caldwell whose suit was favored by his uncle but not by the young lady herself.

"On descending again to the first floor we encountered the young man in question. He was rather handsome and stood well among the people of Charleston's military society. For my own part, although I had met him frequently I had never succeeded in conquering the feeling of dislike that I had experienced at our first meeting.

"Major Cilly suggested going next to the scene of the duel. Young Caldwell offered to accompany us, and stepped out to order the carriage. He appeared to me to be much under the influence of liquor. On the road I asked a number of questions concerning the surgeon, and Caldwell seeing the direction of the interrogation, supplied some valuable information about his antecedents, professional practice, character and habits of life.

"After a time we arrived at the site of the duel, a level strip of river bottom fringed with trees. The open expanse was brightly lighted by the moon. As we alighted from the carriage I tripped over some object that had apparently fallen by the roadside. Stooping and picking it up it proved to be a bamboo pole—that this I hold in my hand. Caldwell offered to take it from me, with rather more warmth, I thought, than the occasion demanded. I declined, and using it for a walking stick followed the older gentlemen through the trees skirting the battle ground.

"I inquired where Anson Caldwell had stood, where his cousin had stood, where the seconds had been posted, and particularly the point from which the surgeon had given the signal. All this was explained with the most painstaking detail. 'I am surprised that the bullet should have taken effect in the head,' I observed. 'It is customary among most duellists to fire at the breast.'

"Miste' Anson Caldwell told me," said Major Cilly, "that he fl'd at his cousin's pistol a'm."

"'I he a good shot?'

"One of the best in the city!"

"I had been watching young Caldwell covertly. He seemed to be in search of something on the ground, and was wandering carelessly up and down and glancing from side to side. Just at that instant I caught sight of a peculiar object lying in the grass near the position which the unfortunate Seville Caldwell had held. I stooped for it, and young Caldwell spied it at the same time. It was a reed about the size of a lead pencil, weighted at one end and sharpened to a point. His fingers closed on it and he said with considerable more agitation than he had shown over the bamboo pole, 'Let me see it!' at the same time jerking with main strength. I gripped it the tighter. His face flushed angrily, and with a muttered curse he jerked again. His fingers slipped and the sharp point scratched across the back of his hand, leaving a narrow red streak. For an instant he

THE FAVORITES OF TIME.

How the Matron Preserves Her Maiden Beauty.

Has old Father Time his favorites? It would seem so. Two young girls, sisters or schoolmates, assume the responsibilities of wedlock at the same time. They are equally young, equally fair. They walk in even step with Time for a few years, and then they are so different in appearance that they might pass for mother and daughter instead of women of equal age. As a matter of fact Time has no favorites; he is kind to those who are kind to themselves. The younger looking woman will tell you she does not know how it is that she keeps her youth and fairness, she uses no cosmetic, no powder, no paint. The woman who looks so much older will say, "I'm obliged to use paint and powder, I have to cover up my yellow skin



and hide these wrinkles." If you probe a little deeper into the secrets of these women, you will find that the youthful one has learned that the best cosmetic is health, and that there can be no general health for the body which is hourly undermined by the local ill-health of the delicate female organs. Knowing this she has taken prompt means to cure the disagreeable drains, the bearing-down pains, and the inflammations and ulcerations, which to a greater or less extent affect most women who experience the tremendous change which by marriage and motherhood is wrought on the distinctly feminine organs.

The older appearing woman will tell you the common story of constant and useless doctoring for backache, for female weakness, for debilitating drains. Inflammation like a fire burns up her strength. Ulceration like a leech saps her vitality. Nature cannot make a bright eye and a pure complexion without rich, pure blood. This woman's blood flows sluggishly along the canals of the body, like some oozy, slimy current, whose motion barely keeps it from utter stagnation.

Beauty is every woman's birthright. A healthy woman is always beautiful. This secret of health and beauty for every woman lies in the recognition of the plain truth that where there are local diseases of the organs distinctively feminine, there can be no health and beauty while these debilitating, life-sapping ailments continue.

"But," comes the natural question "can these diseases be cured?" It is no wonder women ask the question in view of the failures of ordinary practitioners. Hundreds of thousands of such cases have in the past thirty years been referred to Dr. R. V. Pierce, chief consulting physician to the Invalids' Hotel and Surgical Institute, Buffalo, N. Y., and although the majority are chronic cases aggravated by injudicious and ignorant treatment, yet the great record stands that of thousands of such suffering women ninety-eight out of every hundred have been entirely cured.

"I feel it a duty to inform you that I had been a sufferer for many years from nervousness with all its symptoms and complications," writes Mrs. O. N. Fisher, 1861 Lexington Avenue, New York, N. Y. "I was constantly going to see a physician or purchasing medicine for this or that complaint as my troubles became unbearable. In the spring of 1897 my husband induced me to try Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. After taking one bottle and following your advice I was so encouraged that I took five more bottles of 'Favorite Prescription' and then I did not take any more for several weeks as I felt so much better, but still I was not completely cured. I commenced taking it again and felt that I was improving faster than at first. I am not now cross and irritable, and I have a good color in my face; have also gained about ten pounds in weight and one thousand pounds of comfort, for I am a new woman once more and your advice and your 'Favorite Prescription' are the causes of it, coupled with your 'Pleasant Pellets' which are not to be dispensed with. I took eight bottles of the 'Prescription,' the last time, making fourteen in all, and will not take any more unless you so advise, for I do not see as I need it. I have often told my friends how I was cured, and have been no little surprised to learn how many of them have also used Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription with great benefit. I have induced several to try it and have heard that they were much pleased with the results."

The record of such cures is unimpeachable, as is the fact that they have been enjoyed by ninety-eight per cent. of the women who have

tried Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. Any sick or ailing woman can consult Dr. Pierce by letter without charge. By this method there is no subjecting of the patient to the embarrassing questions, offensive examinations, and obnoxious local treatments which frighten so many modest women away from the door of help. You can write freely, frankly, fully, keeping nothing in reserve because your letter will be read in private and all its confidences will be held sacred. You can write without fee as without fear.

There is no alcohol, whisky or other stimulant in Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. It is equally free from opium and all narcotic drugs, and preserves its virtues in any climate without the aid of syrup or sugar.

The cure of Mrs. Fisher was accomplished by the use of Dr. Pierce's Favorite Prescription. Her cure is but the type of hundreds of thousands. If you want a like cure you'll find it in "Favorite Prescription" only and not in a substitute. If you want a cure you don't want a substitute. You should make any substituting dealer see that as you see it.

A keen observer of human nature recently said: "I mistrust the druggist who endeavors to dissuade me from buying the medicine I had in mind on entering his store. My fear is that he may change my doctor's prescription to make it better suit his convenience and selfish interests." The moral is, patronize the dealer who respects your judgment and gives you exactly what you call for.

One of the best books of the day is Dr. Pierce's great work, "The People's Common Sense Medical Adviser." 1008 pages and over 700 illustrations. This book is sent free on receipt of stamps to cover cost of mailing only. Send 21 one-cent stamps for the paper bound edition, or 31 stamps for the handsome edition bound in cloth. Address Dr. R. V. Pierce, Buffalo, N. Y.

stood and stared at the wound; I was prompted to apologize for the injury. Then the color all left his face and into his eyes came a most terrible expression of unutterable despair. He started to run wildly, and fell; stumbled up again, and fell again; shrieked, rolled his head from side to side, groveled with his face to earth, twisted and writhed. Then he broke into words and prayed to God, to the devil, besought heaven and hell for a day, an hour; screamed that he was not fit to die; raised himself on his hands and dragged his lower limbs, which were now all paralyzed, after him like the slimy worms you sometimes see in damp places.

"We ran to him as soon as surprise released us; but there was nothing we could do for him. Now he had sunk back to the ground. 'The will!' he cried, trying to get an envelope from an inside pocket. 'Uncle made it in favor of Ethel and me. In a few days he would have heard about me and changed it. I killed him! I killed him so he could not change it. It was the blow gun and the poisoned arrow I brought from Brazil.—There is no escape.—It was such an opportunity—the duel—they would think it was a bullet.'

"And then the blue tint gathered around his lips and nostrils and he flattened out and died. I threw the arrow into the depths of the river, and we gathered up the body of the murderer, executed by his own engine of death, and all rode back into the city to the house where the dead uncle lay.

"I wish," concluded Carpenter, "that I could illuminate this gloomy story by adding that Ethel Caldwell and the young surgeon, on whom my false suspicion fell, were happily married; but I left Charleston a week or so later and of course that was too soon after death had so heavily visited the household, to follow with a wedding."

CHRISTMAS IN EDEN.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY MARGARET BROWNSON.

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T was recess time on the fifth floor of that world famous journal, the New York Daily Globe, and in the room set apart for the Woman's Department the queen was holding audience. Note that the young editor—who had put away sentimentality with her five years in newspaperdom—so named the noon gathering of the floor's masculine forces in her especial province. But to-day the figure of speech was all but real. For twenty-four hours

Miss Aldrich was holding a position that corresponded in the world journalistic to that of the Czar of all the Russias among nations. In short she, as editor-in-chief, had piloted to overwhelming success the great Woman's Charity Edition of the New York Globe—an edition that, as the Exchange Editor now put it, was

"manned, from telegraph editor to office girl, by the Eternal Feminine culled from the flower of New York's Women Journalists."

"And, therefore, Bradley, under the ban of your disapproval, I suppose," continued that champion of Miss Aldrich's prowess, to the man at his side, "it's because he believes woman's place is the 'safe, sweet corner by the household fire,' that the Oracle remains dumb."

Miss Aldrich put out an admonishing hand with a negative, birdlike motion of her bright brown head. If the dark, middle-aged Westerner, whose farseeing editorials had won this expressive office *nom de plume*, withheld his meed of praise she certainly would not have it extracted by force, she told herself, with a certain tense hold upon her mouth.

The Oracle drew himself up as though with an effort. "I beg your pardon. Yes, certainly, I congratulate Miss Aldrich on having got out an edition of the Globe that's outselling the regular sheet two to one, and has already netted the biggest contribution of the year to the Fresh Air Fund." His phrases were as exact as those of a child reciting for marks. "But to tell the truth," he went on, with a sudden confidential openness, "my mind wasn't with the New York Globe just then. It was with journalism in Eden."

"Eden! Lucky fellow," observed the Star Reporter, with a meaning glance down at the city square, seething like a human caldron this humid August day. "Come, I scent a story; let's have it."

"You're welcome to the story—such as it is," said the Oracle, settling back again, "but the Eden I speak of—well, it's about as far from the original one as any place on the map. A coal mining town it was, in—no matter what state in the West; and the grime from the mines was everywhere so that the 'face of Nature' that people talk about, was one gigantic smut. In winter it was worse, for the snow hardly fell before it was smirched as if from a sooty lamp. Then the houses were of the packing-box, run-up-in-the-night fashion, built on stilts most of them, as the river when it was high had a pleasant way of taking possession of cellars.

"Not an ideal place for a man to take his young wife to, but the woman I'm thinking of—well—she'd been used to solid country comfort, but I suppose she loved him enough so that she thought nothing of 'making his people her people and his gods her gods.'

"It's a way women have—in a new country," he mused with faraway eyes. "As for the man," the speaker continued, "he probably thought the sun, moon and stars put together shone just for giving similes of what she brought into his life. He was a bit of a poet—in his heart—though he never got beyond prose in writing. He was a newspaper man, you see."

"Ah-h!" came in a long drawn note of appreciation from the group. Only Miss Aldrich sat without a word, her eyes fixed on the glaring white partition, her hands lying listless in her lap.

"Yes," continued the speaker, "one of the old-fashioned sort. Worked his way up from the printer's case until he'd saved enough to set up for himself. Then he prospected around until he found the plant suited to his heart and pocket—the *Eden Weekly Gazette*, with a circulation of eight hundred copies at one dollar a year; quite an income—on paper.

"The office wasn't exactly metropolitan," went on Mr. Bradley, with a smile. "There were no elevators or speaking tubes, or departments or big presses. In fact the entire establishment those two took possession of consisted of a four room cottage. In three of these the young people ate and slept and cooked. The fourth was private office and editorial room in one. And here the man performed the duties of editor, reporter, and business manager combined, with only a boy to run the hand press.

"It seemed a good deal to him until he reflected that his wife not only baked and brewed and swept and dressmaked and turned tailor into the bargain, but even managed to 'get her second wind' in the evening, so that she could play on the melodeon that had been her father's wedding present, until the man almost forgot that eight hundred subscribers on paper were very different from three hundred who paid cash in advance and five hundred who paid in promises—or produce. In Eden, you understand, the editor, like the minister must, for value received, accept with a 'thank you' anything from pork to potatoes. As these transactions were regulated not by the need but by their subscribers' abundance, it was alternately feast time and famine, as the man said laughingly, with these two babes in the woods.

"But by and by there came a day when famine threatened in reality. One gray evening in early December the young husband came into the house with a look on his face the wife had never seen there before. It was the look of a man who had felt a blow in the dark.

"A rival paper," he said, briefly, 'plenty of capital, presses run by machinery, staff of four; the proprietors are to use it as a political weapon and don't care for expense. Mary you've married a failure. Fate is driving me against the wall.'

"And the wife?—well, never mind what she said. It was just one of those heaven-sent things that such women have for such times."

Anyway it put heart in the man; and before the evening was past he was armed to fight the invaders.

"I must increase the size of the paper, Mary, and hustle around for more county news," he said that night; "and, what's more, I'm going to get out a Christmas number, double size, history of the town, reminiscences of old settlers, and all that. Oh, we'll win the day yet, love, never fear."

"Now there's an end to the elasticity even of India-rubber strength and courage. Before this the man had been burning the candle at both ends. Now he attacked it in the middle. Day after day saw him tramping around town and county to interview old settlers. Night after night he sat in the grimy office, writing upon those precious articles for the Christmas number. And day after day, the wife saw the lines deepen on that dear face.

"There was no time for the melodeon now. Even the wife had turned her hand to typesetting. But the hardest task must have been the silent one. For not by word or action must she show the fear of that shadow darkening her husband's eyes.

"For to the man it seemed as though poverty and failure had taken misty form and stood over him. And presently there came a night when he heard their voices in his ears and cried out with a mighty cry.

"'Typhoid fever,' the doctor said, when summoned. And then followed a long dim interval in which the man knew neither day nor night, only tossing with thirst and pain and from time to time a loved face shining through a grey mist. If only he could throw off that intolerable weight and get to his work! That was the burden of his soul's cry. 'The paper, I must get it out, I must!' he would murmur; and then the mist would close over him again.

"It was Christmas Day when he awoke. The sun shining through the window of his bedroom fell on the wreath of evergreen against the pane, on a plate heaped with oranges and grapes standing on the table by his bedside ('a subscription,' he murmured faintly), and then—with a sick doubt he turned to the wall and shut his eyes. 'The fever,' he said wearily. 'It will disappear when I look again.' But when he turned back eyes staring incredulously, it had not disappeared, neither did it vanish into the air when he put out his hand weakly for the reassurance of touch. When the wife crept in five minutes later she found her husband propped up in bed, the tears rolling down his cheeks and dropping upon the Christmas number of the *Eden Weekly Gazette*!

"Yes, there it was, historical articles, old settlers' reminiscences, extra county news, even a Christmas editorial, very crude as to composition but breathing such peace and good will to men as to make one forget that the sentences were all wrongly put together and the grammar not above reproach. As for the printing that was very queer indeed, with one letter in every five upside down and commas and periods wildly interchanged. But still the printing was printing, and the paper a paper—and not a myth.

"How did she do it? Only the God who inspires women at such times knows. But that day the extra number captured the entire country. When the would-be proprietors of the rival journal came to spy out the land they found Eden so devoted to those two youngsters that the newcomers were all but stoned out of town. And I can tell you that when that whole story leaked out—for it did somehow—the townsmen just raced with each other to put up good silver dollars for the next year's subscription."

"And they lived happily ever after?" said the caricaturist.

"The woman died a year later," said Mr. Bradley quietly. "You see she wasn't ever rewarded by—by seeing the germ she'd planted grow to be a tree. But—well, you may call her work a failure if you like. It never was heard of beyond the county limits; but to me the poor paper that gave back hope to a hopeless man was the grandest 'Woman's Edition' on record, and the charity that has made all womankind blessed to him was the truest charity."

Miss Aldrich rose flushing. "You are doubtless right," she said with a proud little catch in her voice, "and we newspaper women—our success is merely one of personal ambition. But you must excuse me, for I have an important engagement at one."

Ten minutes later, standing in the cool recesses of the big market and mechanically noting some quite unnecessary information about artichokes and tomatoes, she felt the catalog swell almost to a sob. Had he known, had he guessed, she thought, of that glimmering sunsetting in her heart? And had he taken this way to instruct her as to his ideal woman? Indeed, was it not of the wife of his youth that he had spoken with that new look in his eyes? After all, except that he had worked his way from the printer's case, respected and admired from the lowest round of the ladder, how little she had heard of his history in that whirling world of journalism; she was turning to go when some one towered between her and a pile of squashes.

"Miss Aldrich"—it was Mr. Bradley, but not as she had known him. This man had eager eyes and a strangely moved face. "Miss Aldrich," he repeated, as they passed into the refuge of an empty stall. Surely you could not think that my story reflected—that I meant to—that I don't appreciate you. Don't you know that I heard of your self-sacrifice, of the sisters you supported so long, that I admire and believe in your abilities? It was because I thought them meant for something so much better than this grind that I spoke as I did—of my little sister, Mary. You reminded me of her somehow.

"But now you must listen to another story."

But the other story, told in the butter and egg corner of a big market is not for publication. Indeed, it is still "running" in a cottage among the hills of New Jersey; it was in that cottage that Mrs. Bradley wrote the tender sketches from real life that made so much success last year.

But only six people understood why the volume bears the dedication "To the Editor of the First Woman's Edition."

IN HIS GOLF STOCKINGS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY HELEN M. WINSLOW.

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in my thoughts as you are in heart; I love you."

The girl flushed and turned her eyes away. "We shall be late to lunch if you don't hurry," she said. "Don't spoil the game."

"Lunch be—well, no matter." He threw down his drive. "Millie, you've got to answer this question sooner or later; you've seen it; you knew I loved you; ever since we were children?"—but Millie Thornton was ten yards away hunting for her ball.

"If you say another word," she called back, saucily, "I'll drop the game right where we are; that would be a pity for we are so evenly matched."

Jack Brereton struck viciously at the ball perched exasperatingly on its tee; the sand scattered in all directions and the ball rolled leisurely to one side.

A ripple of laughter floated back on the sharp December air. "It counts," she called and her own loftier skillfully sent her ball flying out of the last hazard.

Another vigorous dive at the ball on the last tee, and Jack Brereton suppressed an unpolished exclamation. There was scarcely any need of it, however, for by this time his opponent was beyond hearing.

"It's of no use!" he muttered to himself. "She's beating me and fairly, too. I'm rattled; but never mind, she's got to answer my question, yet."

"What are you doing back there?" called Millie; "I've only another stroke to go out on. Give up!"

Jack nodded. He might give in this time, but this wasn't the main question. Indeed he intimated as much when she came running back, the game ended, her cheeks glowing and her eyes shining like stars; but she only laughed again and said:

"I'll run you race for the chocolates?" and she was off like the wind.

Now what was a young man to do? He had tried three times during the past week, since they had all been up at Mrs. Lynch's for her Christmas house party, to talk to her on this subject. She neither rejected nor listened to him. What did it mean? Could there be anybody else? Jack grew savage at the bare idea. Why, he had been devoted to Millie Thornton ever since he wore knickerbockers. Another? He would like to meet him, that's all.

He began to fear his opportunity to behold a rival had come, after all, that evening. At dinner a new face appeared on the scene. What was worse the women seemed to think this tall handsome young Vanderslip, who had recently come into his inheritance of a million or so, was a great acquisition to the party. From the first Jack felt that this well set up fellow with his cool self possession and all his other possessions was a much over-rated young man. When he saw that he was taking Millie Thornton in to dinner, and that the girl seemed completely infatuated with him, he was certain of it.

The evening passed off, after a fashion. The usual flow of conundrums, the stories, the game and the music, all of which it seemed to Brereton were dominated by the young millionaire, failed to interest him. He began to meditate on the easiest way of slipping off to bed without attracting attention from his punctilious hostess. Then some one proposed that the stockings should be hung. Mrs. Lynch decreed that everybody should hang a stocking on the old-fashioned crane in the great fire-place in the hall. Jack Brereton curled his lips. What child's play!

Just then Millie came up to him, for the first time since dinner.

"Jack, I want you to hang up both your golf stockings. Will you?"

"Would he? He was off upstairs, two steps at a time. When he came back, Millie smiled at him. "Hang them up on the very outer edge!" she commanded; "you've been so cross and glum this evening."

"Millie! You know the reason?" he began in an earnest undertone. But young Vanderslip had come up on the other side, and Miss Thornton seemed to have eyes and ears for no one else.

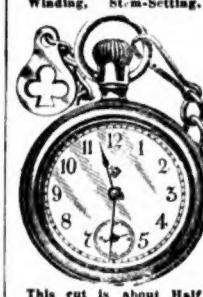
"What fool I was," said Jack in his inner consciousness. "But she can have two pairs of golf stockings if she wants. I don't mind how big a one I am now that I have gone in for making a fool of myself."

He waited until all the other stockings were hung and put his last on the crane. He was not in the mood to notice how funny they all looked, the short, the thick, the thin, the sober, the gay. His was the only pair and they looked the picture of greed. Then he said goodnight to Mrs. Lynch and went to his room. Properly speaking, he should have tossed on his uneasy pillow all night; but Brereton was a healthy, hearty young man and he had played three games of golf in the clear December air that day; and moreover, Mrs. Lynch's pillows were exceptionally easy.

The next morning when he looked out of his window there was a white mantle covering the world. The clouds were breaking and the scene was so beautiful that he jumped out of bed, ashamed to be a laggard in the face of

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TELEGRAPHY

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DODGE'S INSTITUTE, Valparaiso, Ind.

A QUESTION OF AUTHORITY.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT BY NICHOLAS LAMAR.

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ARDEN Hinkle was not such a fool as he looked. This is not usually received as a compliment by a man, but the warden really needed some such recommendation, for a homelier man never presided over the destinies of four thousand prisoners in a state prison. However, the stupidity of his exterior belied the shrewdness underneath, and the new prison tricks continually cropping out

from the four thousand inventive brains were usually analyzed and mastered by him as readily as the multiplicity of tricks already invented.

The warden was absent from his office that day and his deputy was on duty. The door opened and Dr. Howell entered.

"Morning, Mr. Deputy," he said.

Dr. Howell was very young and very confident. Whatever his lack of reputation or ability he was backed by an abundance of political pull, and he had experienced no difficulty in securing the position of assistant physician to the penitentiary over a host of rival candidates.

"Morning," returned the deputy.

"What's this I hear about some cipher notes being taken from the men?" asked the doctor.

The deputy reached into a pigeonhole and after excavating several cigars and a pouch of tobacco procured two fragments of paper. One was a piece of wrapping paper, the other apparently a leaf from a notebook. Unfolding these he smoothed them out on the table.

The first was an absolutely meaningless scrawl covering the sheet in four or five parallel lines. The second was a jumble of phrases and words with no intelligible connection, but suggesting the wandering of a mind incapable of following a thread of thought. Dr. Howell's eye lighted as he glanced over the following:

"Old Satan is hole in pump the Pontine marshes dry when White house is finished till all ladies' honor grows cold let me know marry me of the diadem if what they have me beside the still waters thou done on outside anointest my head with oil verily cup runneth over."

"A clear case of G. P.," he said. "The other seems to be aphasia; the characters are all well made but few of them have any meaning. Very interesting; I must see the men. They will afford some interesting data for the study of mental derangement. Quite a windfall—two cases of mental breakdown in one day. Have they been taken to the asylum?"

The deputy said that he believed not.

"What! Why, they ought to be put under treatment at once," and the doctor started from the room.

"Say!" called the deputy, but the door slammed shut.

Out in the corridor the doctor met one of the captains of the guard. "Jim," he said, "take Blinky Pete and Red O'Hara and put them in ward A at once."

"But Doc I don't think—," began the captain. "I believe I rank you," said the doctor briefly. "They ought to go into ward B if they are to go to the asylum at all."

"Take them to A."

The guard departed grumbling.

Somewhat later in the day Dr. Howell entered the prison office again. The warden had returned. He glanced up and there was a twinkle in his eye as he recognized his visitor.

"That's a curious case, those two fellows," said the doctor, dropping into a chair and reverting to the lunatics, "both slipping a cog at the same time. Two of the smartest crooks in the country."

"Slipping a what?"

"A cog. Exhibiting symptoms of mental alienation, to adopt a more technical style of speech."

"I had not heard of anything of the kind."

" Didn't you see those two typical epistles that were gathered in to-day? The deputy had them this morning."

"These?" asked the warden, producing the papers in question, and spreading them out as his lieutenant had done before.

"This one," said the doctor, pointing out the wrapping paper specimen, "betrays every characteristic of General Paralysis. If the prison library were as well supplied with technical literature as it should be, I could demonstrate each one of these points by a reference to such authorities as Bucknill and Tuke. For instance: see the shifting thought, scarcely following one thread for any time; see the biblical quotations; notice especially the omission of words evidently intended to be present; observe the reversal of the order of the words; it is extremely interesting and affords a beautiful illustration of the fully developed 'first stage.' Old Satan is hole in; he meant, 'is in hole.' Then a new idea takes possession of him and he talks about pumping the Pontine marshes dry; that is a symptom of delusions of grandeur, a sure test for this kind of insanity. His reference to the White house seems to indicate that he thinks it still in course of construction. Then he grows incoherent and talks wildly about ladies' honor, which he confuses with love growing cold, of being married and of a diadem, another delusion of grandeur. Finally there is the scriptural quotation which, you will find on referring to any of the authorities, always occurs in anything written by a General Paralytic. You see the word *my* has been left out from the phrase, 'verily my cup runneth over.'"

"What a head you have, doctor," said the warden, admiringly.

"I got it all by reading my books thoroughly. When in doubt consult the authorities," returned the doctor jauntily. "This other one," he went on, picking up the other missive, "is an admirable example of Aphasia. Aphasia is discussed thoroughly by Bucknill and Tuke, who give numerous plates and illustrations; Maudsley has written entertainingly of the malady, and Mercier more recently has put forth a new theory to cover it."

"What is Aphasia?" inquired Warden Hinkle, growing interested.

"It is caused by a lesion in that part of the brain which controls the process of writing. The victim entirely loses the power to form intelligible written characters."

"But these are not unintelligible characters," put in the warden. "The letters are reversed; the lines read from right to left."

"Oh, yes," said the doctor, "I remember a discussion of such a case in my reading somewhere. I believe that the author concluded the patient had been originally lefthanded, and when the aphasic condition came to exist the lateral relations of the two cerebral hemispheres were reversed and the left hand—the one that he had always used—would henceforth write backwards while the right hand painfully wrote forwards—"

"Would the left-handed writing have any meaning if the characters could be deciphered?" interrupted the warden.

"As to that I can't say," replied the doctor. "I have never seen that discussed in my reading; but I believe not."

"Nevertheless, by looking at the reflection of this particular specimen in mirror, and thereby reversing it, we read it without difficulty."

"Even then," returned the doctor, confidently, "it is very likely nothing more than a meaningless phrase or two, or at best a sentence that he has remembered and copied."

Warden Hinkle leaned back against the wall and regarded the doctor with half closed eyes. "So much for your authorities," he said, sitting forward and snapping his fingers. "Now listen to a few facts. Those two curiosities are cipher communications between two of the shrewdest rogues unhung. Take the paper you call General Paralysis—this one. Underscore the words in groups of three, separated by groups of six, beginning with the word 'hole'. What do you get?"

Old Satan is hole in pump the Pontine marshes dry when White house is finished till all ladies' honor grows cold let me know marry me of the diadem if what they have me beside the still waters thou done on outside anointest my head with oil verily cup runneth over."

"That is from Blinkey Pete and was found on Red O'Hara. 'Hole in pump house is finished. Let me know what they have done on outside.' The key to the cipher lay in the last part where he has used too long a quotation from the twenty-third psalm. If it hadn't been for that mistake on his part, I might not have been able to translate it. You see, Blinkey has been doing a little excavating at odd moments when no one was near, while O'Hara has been carrying on the negotiations with outsiders who are tunneling in. Your aphasic epistle is his answer. Hold it up before the mirror—so. What do you see?"

"The work on the outside is progressing rapidly, they will break through Tuesday night at evening roll call."

"What does it mean?" cried Dr. Howell, dazed by the revelation.

"I had them locked up in separate cells as soon as I understood you had ordered them into the asylum."

"And I had them put in ward A. They can escape from that ward without any trouble. It is already past roll call! Quick!" The doctor rushed out, followed by the warden wearing a grin. In a less homely man the grin would have been called an amused smile.

"If they have got away," panted the doctor, still in the lead and running hurriedly in the direction of the pump house, "it is all my fault. But those were certainly the clearest symptoms of General Paralysis and Aphasia I ever heard about. Why, the authorities—"

"I don't think they have escaped farther than the cellar," said the warden, bringing up the rear. "I had about a barrel of fresh cement poured into their hole this afternoon."

Dr. Howell threw open the door of the pump house. The place was deserted. Over in one corner an open trap door in the floor showed the way to the cellar. Both dropped to their knees and peered down into the black void. The warden reached a lantern hanging nearby and lowered it through the opening. No sound came up from below, but four shining eyes burned in the depths of the darkness.

This the doctor says he can't understand, for, to the best knowledge of the profession, there is lacking in the human eye that peculiar substance which confers upon the animal eye its remarkable reflecting powers. Perhaps he privately believes that it was the consuming fire of insanity.

—

A MODERN SNOW EATER.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

AST winter was noted in the northern states for its extreme cold and the great amount of its snowfall. The city where I was then making my home was two or three times buried under fifteen or eighteen inches of snow, and men, horses, carts and scrapers were employed for several days at a time, at an expense of several hundred dollars, in clearing the streets of this mass of snow.

Now all this is to be changed. A nineteenth-century genius has invented a machine for disposing of the surplus snow in cities which bids fair to do away entirely with any other method of removing it. This machine consists of an elongated wagon which is fitted on the front end with a big scoop, whose purpose is to take up the snow in front of it as the machine is drawn through the streets. A vast quantity of snow is lifted by it at each dip which is, by an automatic movement of the shovel, thrown up and backward into the cart behind it.

This cart, or long wagon, has a metal floor, and beneath this floor are a number of iron pots filled with burning charcoal. These keep the floor constantly so highly heated that the snow melts as soon as it lands upon it. This metal floor has a gentle slope toward the back of the wagon, to which is attached a tank capable of holding several hundred gallons of water. It may be easily seen that the snow, as

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RHEUMATISM, SCIATICA and CATARRH

CURED BY

"5 DROPS" Three Years Ago.

DOCTORS PRONOUNCED HIM INCURABLE.
He is Still Well and Writes on Oct. 10, 1898: "I Feel it a Duty
That I Owe to God and Suffering Humanity to Announce to You
and All the World What "5 Drops" Has Done for Me."

SIBERIA, PERRY CO., IND., Jan. 29, 1898.

SWANSON RHEUMATIC CURE COMPANY:—I would like to thank you for your great remedy, "5 DROPS," and tell you what it has done for me. I had Rheumatism in every joint and in the heart, and I had Catarrh of the Head for 30 years. I was so poorly that I lost the use of my legs and arms, and could not move without pain. I was so crippled that I had done but little work for seven long years, and our family physician, a good doctor, told me that my Rheumatism and Catarrh were incurable, and I believed him. But now, after using "5 DROPS" only two months, I can truly say I have not felt so well for seven years. This medicine does more than is claimed for it. At this time my Catarrh is much better and I have scarcely any Rheumatism at all, and the heart weakness and pain are gone. My hearing is now good and my eyesight is much better. I have gained more than 10 pounds of flesh and can do a full day's work. It is the best medicine I ever saw to give a mother who has a young child, for it has the same effect on the child as on the mother. It wards off Croup and cures the Hives of the child and causes sweet and refreshing sleep to both young and old.

WM. M. KELLEMS.

SIX TESTIFY TO ITS TRUTH.

In a letter of Oct. 10, 1898, from Mr. Kellems, he says: "I feel it a duty that I owe to God and suffering humanity to announce to you and all the world that I am yet in the ring with untried thousands of others, to testify to the great merits of your valuable remedy called "5 DROPS." I believe I was the first sufferer in this part of the earth to learn of the existence of "5 DROPS," some three years ago. I was then badly afflicted with Rheumatism, Catarrh, etc., which my letter of Jan. 29, 1896, fully speaks of. All I can say is "5 DROPS" cured me. To make a long story short, "5 DROPS" needs no recommendation in this part of the country, as everybody knows the "5 DROPS" remedies around here. It has cured more cases of Rheumatism, Sciatica, Neuralgia, and many other pains than any other medicine that has ever been sold or heard of. For the last three years I have noticed the effect "5 DROPS" has on the sick, through my own observations as well as my brother, who is a practicing physician and uses the "5 DROPS" in his practice. All ye that wish for further information, write and you are sure to get reply without any delay. I will (as I have done in this letter) cheerfully recommend it to any one that I may come in contact with. I myself can never forget what this remedy has done for me and many others.

Yours very truly,

WM. M. KELLEMS, Siberia, Ind.

Witnesses to the above: Jas. Brady, J. R. Cox, E. R. Huff, S. Taylor, Dr. S. W. Kellems, Jno. Hays, all of Siberia, Ind.

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soon as it is converted into water by contact with the hot floor, runs down the incline, and falls into the tank at the rear of the wagon. When the tank becomes full the machine is backed up to the nearest sewer, the stopcock in the tank is turned and the water is allowed to run away down the sewer pipe. Then the machine resumes its work. Two or three of these machines would easily fill the place of several hundred men and horses in clearing the city of snow, and the work would be better done and at far less expense than by the old method. The inventor claims that it will, in one hour, clear away as much snow as would cover a street a foot in depth and the extent of a city block.

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HERE seems to be no end to the wonderful engineering connected with railroading. The latest thing is to build a railroad up the Jungfrau, one of the highest peaks of the Swiss Alps, nearly fourteen thousand feet high. But we have been astonished by the engineering feats carried on in the Alps ever since Napoleon built his wonderful road over them; so we are prepared for almost anything. Ground has been broken for this new railroad, and what at first seemed an impossibility, will, doubtless, be a reality soon.

The word porcelain was first applied to china ware by some Portuguese sailors who were struck by the translucence of the ware. They likened it to a cowry shell, and as this, in turn, was thought to resemble a sucking pig, they gave it the name of Porcelain.

St. Vitus Dance. One bottle Dr. M. M. Fenner's Specie cures. By mail. Send for Circular, Fredonia, N.Y.

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EDITOR'S NOTE. The following rules govern the publication of matter in this department.

Contributors must without exception be regular subscribers to *Comfort*, and every contribution must bear the writer's name and post-office address in full.

Original letters only, which deal with matters of general interest, will be published. They must be as brief, plain and correct as the writers can make them, and may vary in length from one hundred to four hundred words. Only letters of exceptional merit and interest may reach six hundred and fifty words. Contributors must write on one side of the paper only.

\$10 CASH PRIZES \$10.

The following cash prizes will be paid monthly:

1st. For the best original letter	\$3.00
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Competitors for these monthly cash prizes must comply with all the above rules, and in addition must bring at least one new Cousin into the *COMFORT* circle; that is, we must send one new subscriber with each letter, together with 50 cents for a yearly subscription.

These cash prizes will be announced monthly in this department.

No premiums will be given for subscriptions sent in under this Prize Offer.

All communications must be addressed to Aunt Minerva, care of *COMFORT*, Augusta, Maine.

CASH PRIZE WINNERS.

C. D. Jones,	\$2.00
Bettie Cox,	2.50
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Alice E. Greenleaf,	1.50
Nina Viola Fiske,	1.00

EAR NIECES AND NEPHEWS:

Our own sweet singer, Longfellow, says:

"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old, familiar carols play;

And wild and sweet
The words repeat

Of peace on earth, good-will to men.

Then pealed the bells more loud and deep;

God is not dead; nor doth he sleep!

The Wrong shall fail,

The Right prevail,

With peace on earth, good-will to men."

"The Wrong shall fail, the Right prevail;" yes, but to bring about this happy state of things we must, each one of us, do our part by personally keeping "peace on earth, good-will to men." Let us all, with this Christmas, redouble our efforts so to do.

"Doing God's will as if it were my own, Yet trusting not in mine, but in his strength alone."

Our first letter this month is from far-away Tacoma, Washington, and gives us a vivid picture of the daily life of the Alaskan Indian.

"September to a dweller in northern Washington means that the hop season has begun, and as one looks across the waters of Puget Sound he may see the Alaskan Indians in their staunch canoes making their way to our shores to help with the hop picking. Some of them come even from Glacier Bay, a thousand miles to the north.

"All along the pan handle or southwestern part of Alaska, the shore is fringed with islands and peninsulas. Here dwell several tribes of Indians who are fishermen and whose whole life, save the short time of the hop picking, is spent upon the sea. The mountains rise like a huge wall behind them and dip their bases into the ocean, leaving no wide coastal plain to invite agriculture. Thus the Indian is forced to get his whole living from the sea. In the winter he builds his permanent village near the halibut banks but each family owns its own salmon stream which is as valued a heritage as



THE MOUNTAINS RISE LIKE A HUGE WALL BEHIND THEM.

the preserves of Merrie England, and as closely guarded against poachers.

"Not only does the Indian change his residence for the halibut and salmon fishing but a third time does he set up housekeeping, this time for the oulachan fishing. The oulachan is the most valuable fish to the native. It is one of the delicacies of the coast. About six inches long and an inch in diameter, nearly round, it is not unlike a candle in shape, and as it contains so much oil that it will burn when lighted it is called the candle fish. The oil is used as sauce in winter. During the summer the Alaskan gets his supply of salmon. The rivers fairly teem with the fish, sometimes as many as ten thousand being taken at one cast of the seine. On their own streams the Indians usually spear the salmon or catch them in nets. Herring are so plentiful they are raked out with wooden rakes. All the surplus fish is carried to the cannery along the coast where many of the Indians are employed by the white men in cleaning and packing the fish.

"But the halibut fishing is the most interesting of the natives' occupations. Their line is the giant kelp, a kind of sea-weed, which often grows to a length of three hundred feet. When soaked, bleached and stretched it becomes a strong, pliable cord. The hook, a foot long, is cut from the heart of spruce or cedar roots. With these crude implements the Alaskan Indian laughs at the white man's equipment.

"The Indian's canoe is his pride and greatest care. For it he chooses the best spruce or yellow cedar. He shapes the outside with wedges and wedge hammers, then through the long dark win-

ter he patiently cuts out the inside. The hollow is then partly filled with water in which are placed stones heated red hot. This causes steam to rise making the wood more pliable so that stretchers can be forced in until the canoe takes the desired shape. The outside is then rubbed with a shark's skin to smooth it. The canoe is propelled most skillfully by a paddle or is sailed by means of a sail of woven cedar bark.

"Owing to the constant use of the arms and upper part of the body the Alaskan Indian is well developed in those parts of the body while the lower limbs are small and weak, making them poor travelers on land though they have lately been used as pack-carriers by the gold seekers and adventurers in Alaska. They are a bold, hardy, sea-faring people. No journey is too long to be attempted in the staunch little crafts, and as they come gliding over the water of the sound, they seem like the remnant of a foregone century and one cannot but hope that in their contact with civilization here in our Washington they may still retain their primitive simplicity."

C. D. JONES, Tacoma, Wash.

Our next letter is a very interesting account of the quaint settlement of New Austria, Kentucky.

"About five miles southwest of Junction City lies a German settlement, by the name of New Austria. It is reached by a rough road whose intricate windings, among the thickly wooded hills would lose any one but a person well acquainted with the place. The few houses are so far apart and so nearly surrounded by large trees and a thick growth of underbrush that a stranger would never realize that the place was settled.

"When the trees put forth their leaves the steep hillsides become very dark and cool; delicate ferns spring up, often growing over a foot high; the squirrels live, un molested; and the palatable capaw (the bananas of Kentucky) and wild grape grow in abundance. These wild fruits are hunted by the German children, who seem to have no fear of the rattlesnakes, which are quite numerous.

"Each German has cleared a small piece of ground, and, where many an American would starve, he contrives to lay by a snug sum. Their vineyards are their pride and each year a great quantity of grape wine is made. These hospitable people seldom fail to offer the guest the sparkling glass. They have a very peculiar manner of eating; a large bowl, containing one kind of food, is placed in the center of a table and from this the entire family eats with spoons. If they have a



A HOUSE IN NEW AUSTRIA.

visitor, he is placed at one end of the table and provided with all the things ordinarily seen on the American table, while the family, with their one bowl, occupies the other half of the table. Some of the families, however, have adopted the American manner of eating.

"Their church is cared for by a highly-educated old German who speaks several languages fluently. He plays the organ which is kept upstairs; and he also has the priest's robes, which were brought over from the Old Country, and are very costly and beautiful.

"The schoolhouse is situated at the head of a hollow and the trees grow nearly to the door. The majority of the families speak the German language at home, so that when the little tots first attend the five months' school, one of the older pupils must act as interpreter between them and the instructor.

"The accompanying cut shows a typical home in this unique little village. The house is built directly against the hill behind it, which thus forms its rear wall. The rock foundation is nearly as high as the house itself and forms the wine cellar. This is pierced with holes or slits for ventilation. A small porch adorns the house.

"In the foreground is a large stump, which, when a tree was hollow, and in which its owner lived before he built this house. The hill behind the house is so very steep that it has been laid off in terraces for convenience in cultivation."

BETTIE COX, Junction City, Kentucky.

Our next letter introduces a new cousin—a Swiss boy of sixteen. He was born in Switzerland, he tells me, but has been for several years in this country. He says:

"Switzerland, like all European countries, besides the splendid mountain scenery is noted for its villages. It is well known that Switzerland in the inhabited regions holds an immense population. The farmers, instead of living in the country on their respective farms, gather into villages which are surrounded by their farms. Each farm contains from three to twenty acres, which are staked off, as fences take too much room. Nearly all houses apart from the villages are manor houses or halls occupied by some well-to-do landholder, while on the farms adjoining are the broad, low-roofed houses tenanted by the poor class of people dependent upon the owner of the land for a living, happy to receive from fifteen to fifty cents a day.

"The town of Neider Scherli is six miles southeast of Berne on the large stage road leading from Berne to Schwarzenburg. This road, like nearly all Swiss roads, is gravelled. Not unfrequently when traveling along the road will one find stone and gravel quarries with a keeper to repair the road. But for foreigners the traveling is a little rough, as on the smaller roads the stones are not very finely crushed. Neider Scherli is a typical Swiss village with few houses surrounded by gardens and orchards and with a very few streets. The houses are all large, and the projecting roof forms the veranda. A little beyond and below the village flows the Sherli Bach, a small creek which at the road widens into a mill pond flanked by a saw mill on the north and tannery on the south, while beyond the road to the west is the mill with her thundering water wheel. The creek or ravine is crossed by a massive stone bridge consisting of three arches.

"To the north of the creek and east of the village rises the towering Halten Hill, which gives a splendid view of the lower Sense valley and the city of Berne. A few rods below, on the slope, lies Ober Scherli, nearly eight hundred feet above Neider Scherli. Ober Scherli is a small village of farmers. On all houses the stables are attached to the dwelling. No barns exist separately in the rural parts of Switzerland. The dwelling rooms and stables are always under the same roof."

JOHN G. HANNA, Berne, Ind.

Our St. Lawrence cousin, with the following vivid description of northern ice-cutting, takes me back to "the scenes of my childhood," so "dear to the heart."

"Will those readers of *Comfort* who never see snow or ice-cutting imagine themselves with me on the banks of our noble St. Lawrence river, and watch the men and teams employed in gathering in the 'ice-harvest.'

"The first thing necessary is to get a permit to cut; then the space applied for must be fenced around to avoid accidents; snow ploughs remove all snow, and then a machine something like a harrow is run over the ice to mark it off in blocks, and then begins the real work of cutting it out, putting it on to sledges, and hauling away to the ice-houses. The cutting is all done by hand. Men stand on the ice, and cut up and down just as we used to see planks cut. It does not seem to be heavy work, but is severe in cold weather, and none dare attempt it who are not warmly clad. The cutters always work up stream, and as each

one heart shaped toilet articles can be used. Two large red paper hearts pierced with a gold arrow can be a 'Booby' prize. On each of the tables dishes of candies can be placed, and if the rather old-fashioned motto candies are in them with their ridiculous mottoes, much merriment can be caused.

"The hostess might dress to represent the Queen of Hearts. One young lady at a Valentine Party recently wore a black lace dress on which were sewed innumerable red hearts made of paper. On the skirt she sewed them in rows, and on the waist there was a line of them down the right side, and one larger red heart pierced with a gold arrow (made of gile paper) was on the left side near the arm, while a gold heart was fastened in the knot of each bow of her neck ribbon and belt ribbon, which were a bright scarlet. On the sleeves red hearts were sewed to the lace. In her hair was a red heart and gold arrow similar to the one on the waist. She carried a red silk handkerchief and red fan.

"If a lunch is served from the dining-table a center piece of forget-me-nots in the form of a heart would be charming. Pink satin ribbons should be drawn from each corner of the table to the chandelier over the center of the table. A red or pink rose with its long stem and green leaves could be at each plate while the name cards should be in the form of a heart. Sandwiches can be cut in the shape of hearts and fancy cakes made heart shaped. The ices should be pink and heart shaped.

ALICE E. GREENLEAF, Bath, Maine.

Now I have a few letters which, for various reasons, I cannot use. I have enjoyed them myself, and hope their authors will send me others which I shall be able to publish. The first one is from a cousin in Texas who has often written for us. The subject, unfortunately, was a visit to one of the soldiers' camps which were so plentiful and so interesting a few months ago, but are now "thing of the past." I did not receive the letter in time to use it in any of the previous numbers of the paper. Then I have a dear little story written by a ten-year-old girl from Providence, R. I. It was exceedingly well done, but as we do not tell stories on this page I cannot use it.

Gertie Mills sends me a description of a lively bicycle ride, but, you see, Gertie, we all ride wheels and we all have had just such lovely good times, so I must ask you to try me again with another letter. Another Brooklyn cousin has sent me some Easter verses which were intended for last Easter, but reached me far too late. Besides, I suppose I shall have to confess it, Aunt Minerva's page is not intended for poetry; so, Leonie, dear, I shall have to thank you for the verses and keep them for myself.

And now I must stop for this month, for my space is full; so wishing you all a merry Christmas I will say good-by.

AUNT MINERVA.



ICE-CUTTING.

block breaks away it floats down to where the teams are waiting for their loads. Here men are stationed who arrest the floating blocks, dragging them by means of boat hooks on to wooden slides so placed that the block can be easily shifted on to the sleigh that stands in place ready for its load. So expert are the cutters and handlers, and so exact is the system pursued that the work goes on with the regularity of clockwork.

"Thousands of men and horses are employed in this work, which begins as soon as the ice is of sufficient thickness. The 'first crop,' as it is called, is considered the best, although the quality depends entirely on the weather. Clear, cold weather with but little snow gives ice so clear that you can easily see through a three foot block. This ice lasts well, does not melt quickly, and is the delight of the housekeeper. Irregular weather with snow, gives whiter, thicker ice, that turns back to water far too readily for economy."

M. S. B., Montreal, Canada.

Our last prize letter for this month takes us down into the sunny land of Florida, and shows us a bit of Fernandina life.

"Fernandina, Florida, is divided by a strip of marsh and wood, into 'New Town' and 'Old Town.' The former residents were Spaniards. Now New Town is quite thickly populated, while Old Town consists of about fifty houses that are mostly occupied by blacks, who so enjoy a dance without music or a chance to wear a cast-off dress that a white person might easily see the hidden meaning of the phrase, 'Contentment is a precious boon.'

"The business is all done at New Town, which is reached by a foot bridge about five feet wide, over the marsh, and by a carriage road through the sands and woods.

"The roads around New Town are covered with oyster shells that make excellent driveways when well ground. Those of Old Town do not need to be shelled, as all the streets are covered with a short grass kept green the whole year by the dampness from the Amelia river, which flows by, and kept short by the horses and cows which are allowed to run at will with the goats, hens, geese, and a few pigs. If it were not for these animals it would be a beautiful spot.

"We arrived at Fernandina in October. Everything out of doors was beautiful, as there had been no frosts. We thought winter would surely begin by December, but not much cold weather troubled us until one morning in January, when we awoke to find the pump on a south piazza refusing to work, and ice in the barrel of rain water at the corner of the house. A cold wind blew for several days, and then we had no more winter until the first ten days of March, when it was cold, windy and rainy. If the houses were built as they are in Rhode Island, no one would suffer from cold; but the people here only think of summer when building; repairs are seldom made, many houses are without paint, and many things look as if Old Town would soon be a thing of the past. New Town is a growing place."

NINA VIOLA FISKE, Oneonta, N. Y.

The following hints for a "Heart Party" I give the cousins this month, instead of waiting until February, in order that they may, if they wish, profit by them in their preparations for Saint Valentine's Day.

OR the benefit of Aunt Minerva's readers I send these suggestions for a "Heart Party" for St. Valentine's Day. In nearly all respects it is a description of one which I attended last year.

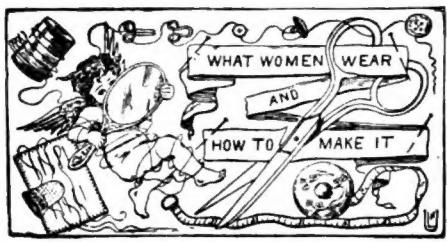
"A Heart Party could be easily carried out as follows: The invitations should be the regulation small card enclosed in envelope to match, and should have the word 'Hearts' in the lower left hand corner. Nearly every one is familiar with the game of Hearts played with cards, and this certainly would be a most suitable game for a Heart Party.

"Score cards could be made of white water-color paper in the form of a heart, and have a small water-color sketch or drawing—either a view, or flower—on one side, and a quotation on the other. Many quotations can be found which will be ap-



SCENE IN FERNANDINA.

propriate, for instance: 'In the game of Life, hearts are trumps,' or 'Two hearts that beat as one,' etc. Tie a pink ribbon in each score card and use tiny heart shaped seals for counters. These make delightful and fitting souvenirs of the occasion. The first prize can be a dainty heart shaped dish, silver heart stick pin, or any of the numer-



WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



THE north wind doth blow" in dead earnest and drives us all into providing ourselves with some sort of warm garment to protect us from its chill blast. Those who can afford the luxury of fur-lined wraps are to be envied for nothing else answers the purpose. Certainly there is no form of winter cloak to compare with a fur-lined cape of either cloth or silk, for elderly women who feel the cold, since they admit of bundling underneath to one's heart's content. Fur-lined driving coats, reaching to the feet, built in Russian style, half-fitting, and provided with a huge storm collar of fur, are this winter considered a necessary adjunct to the wardrobe of every fashionable woman. Very nobby are the short coats, reaching just over the hips, built of light tan or gray melton, showing a deep facing of fur at the front edge, giving the appearance of being lined with fur. Deep revers of fur, a wide collar and generous cuffs complete these comfortable and modish garments intended for the wear of young women. In spite of the furore over the advent of the long coat, the short jacket still holds strongly in favor, and even shorter than ever, at that. Sleeves show no marked change, the only variation being the darts set in at the shoulder instead of pleats or gathers, meaning simply, the pleats inverted and cut out.

Some of the new sealskins show a tendency to a slight flare at the wrist indicating a revival of the flowing sleeve, handily a suitable fashion for a fur coat.

Dress sleeves continue long over the hand, and all sorts of soft trimmings are applied as a finish. On the newest gowns there is no fullness at all at the shoulder, the necessary breadth being attained by the application of soft folds, etc.

Turning once more to the subject of coats, a sketch is given here of one of the newest short jackets. The front, in shield shape, is immensely becoming to the figure, while the soft, folded silk belt adds a jaunty air, though this may be left off at will. A bow of silver fox, the entire animal, with its little furry legs and all, is considered the acme of elegance, costing a pretty penny too, though the style may be copied in a cheaper fur. A smart little hat of pinkish violet velvet, draped over a wire frame, and fitting the head softly, has for its decoration gray and black speckled breasts with, in the center, a glittering steel buckle holding them together. Almost without exception all hats flare off the face. Of course I refer to dress hats. Those worn over the face are soft felt, Alpines, etc. All sorts of breasts of birds are called into service to trim our winter millinery since flat trimmings are pre-eminently the vogue. I have in mind a round hat made of deep purple velvet arranged in severe folds as to the brim, and having a soft crown encircled with breasts of speckled chickens; at one side a big bunch of deep purple violets reared themselves smartly.

Skirts are still clinging with even a more decided flare at the skirt than formerly. This effect is more easily obtained by the addition of a circular flounce, than by attempting to cut it all in one. A good model is shown here, which would not be too difficult to handle satisfactorily. The upper portion fits in sheath fashion, closing at the left side with velvet-covered buttons as fasteners. The flounce is applied in curved fashion, headed by a strap, band of stitching, rows of velvet ribbon, or any of the smart, flat braids so much in vogue. It is a drop skirt, with a silk underskirt, which fact adds greatly to its grace.



An extreme to last summer's modes, the flounce, instead of curving upward at the back, being consequently higher than in front, slopes downward, the deep part being in front, add-

ing greatly to the graceful outlines.

The guimpe still holds its sway as a part of the up-to-date bodice, though seen in a variety of new forms, the favorite being the square opening, or the oblong. A novel bodice is set forth here, calling into play several new fea-

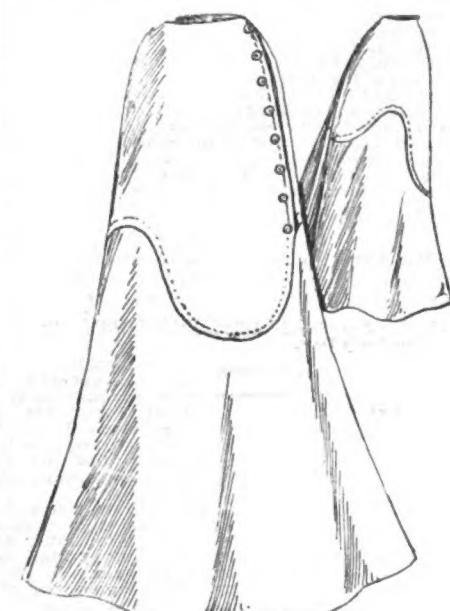


tures of modistic art, among them the tops of the small sleeves being made to match the guimpe in material—lace, in this case being used. The body of the gown is a soft shade of smoke gray poplin velours, the skirt severely plain except for the rows of velvet-covered buttons closing it at the top of the back. The round bodice is fitted smoothly, drawn in to the figure by means of gathers at both front and back, and finished at the waist by a soft belt of gray silk drawn into a silver buckle. The breast of the bodice has two clusters of tucks, set an even distance apart, the upper portion of the sleeves being decorated in a similar manner. A hollowed-out guimpe of Honiton lace fits snugly across the shoulders, the square space being filled in by tucks of rose pink silk, with stock to match, having a pretty finish under the ears consisting of points of the lace. A stylish accessory to a simple tailor gown, if a dressy effect is required, is a cravat in exaggerated size, of any bright shade of velvet, the stock having a flaring collar of fur attached. A muff to match usually accompanies the little piece of smartness.

Shirt waists for winter wear appear once more in velvet, both plain and plaid, in all colors, the more brilliant being preferred. Pretty and useful ones of cloth are in cadet blue and flaming scarlet.

Quite the most modish thing in the way of belts is the scarf of soft Roman silk crushed about the waist, clasped with exquisitely carved and jeweled buckles.

The dog collar grows daily more and more in favor; a favorite style has the broad band made to fit the neck perfectly, of black velvet, upon which are sewn, at regular intervals, Parisian ornaments set with turquoise. Another pretty collar of black has strings of pearls



fitted to it, with a rhinestone clasp in the center. There is no more becoming, nor no smarter finish to gown than these collars.

The newest in veils are shades of green and a rather bright blue; the weave is a revival of the old "sewing-silk" veil our grandmothers used to wear.

Chinchilla is a favorite fur this winter, and I am going to tell you a little secret of the furrier's art, by means of which you may keep your chinchilla collar or muff as fresh looking as the day you bought it. When the fur becomes solid and yellow as it does as soon as wet, just get some nice white sand, put it in a clean dish of large size, heat it hot, run your soiled fur through it several times and you will have a seemingly new garment.

Farmers' Alliance.

To the Members of the Farmers' Alliance & Industrial Union: I have made a careful investigation from the best sources of reliable information about the Swanson Rheumatic Cure Co.'s Remedies, and found that they were giving good satisfaction. I therefore deem it but an act of simple justice to our members to say, that I believe that the claims made by the Company for their remedies will be fully realized by those who will give them a fair and reasonable trial. Yours fraternally, Jno. C. Hanley, Business Agt. F. A. & I. U.

FREE QUART

Troy Laundry blue with each package PAAS FABRIC DYES. Strongest, Brightest: GUARANTEED fast to sun, air, and washing. NEW PROCESS: no streaks or spots, dust or dirt. **NO EXPERIENCE** needed. Choice of 40 colors, full standard sizes and mixed goods; state kind. Catalogue free. PAAS DYE CO., A St., Newark, N. J. Estab. 1880.

A Leaky Faucet.

IT would be very interesting also surprising to many people if they could figure out how much water was lost by the leaking of a faucet from which the water escapes in drops. A chemist, who measured exactly the amount of waste, found that about 50 drops fell in a minute; In 90 minutes there would fall 4,500 drops of water, which is equivalent to a quart, so that there would be a loss of four gallons of water every 24 hours. In a year almost 1,500 gallons of water would be wasted uselessly from such a faucet.

It is quite well known that leaky faucets are quite common, and it therefore, from the above estimation, becomes apparent of the great amount of water wasted yearly.

From a Snail to Electricity.

HAT is quite a jump, and between the two extremes are some interesting figures. A snail moves one-half inch per second; a man walking, four feet; a snow-shoer, ten feet; the current of a rapid river, thirteen feet; a fast runner, twenty-three feet; a fly, twenty-four feet; a fast steamer, twenty-seven feet; a bicyclist, thirty-one feet; a stiff breeze, thirty-two feet; a good skater, thirty-eight feet; a race horse, forty-one feet; a mountain torrent, forty-seven feet; an express train, fifty-four feet; ocean waves, seventy feet; swallows, two-hundred twenty feet; sound in the air, one thousand ninety-five feet; the surface of the globe at sea-level, on the equator, fifteen hundred feet; a cannon ball, sixteen hundred twenty-five feet; the moon, thirty-two hundred feet.

The young Queen of Holland is very enthusiastic about Horticulture. Her favorite flower is, naturally, the tulip.

CATARRH OF THE STOMACH.

A Pleasant, Simple, but Safe and Effectual Cure for it.

Catarrh of the stomach has long been considered the next thing to incurable. The usual symptoms are a full or bloating sensation after eating, accompanied sometimes with sour or watery risings, a formation of gases, causing pressure on the heart and lungs, and difficult breathing; headaches, fickle appetite, nervousness and a general played out, languid feeling.

There is often foul taste in the mouth, coated tongue and if the interior of the stomach could be seen it would show a slimy inflamed condition.

The cure for this common and obstinate trouble is found in a treatment which causes the food to be readily, thoroughly digested before it has time to ferment and irritate the delicate mucous surfaces of the stomach. To secure a prompt and healthy digestion is the one necessary thing to do and when normal digestion is secured the catarrhal condition will have disappeared.

According to Dr. Harlandson the safest and best treatment is to use after each meal a tablet composed of Diastase, Aseptic Pepis, a little Nux, Golden Seal and fruit acids. These tablets can now be found at all drug stores under the name of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets and not being a patent medicine can be used with perfect safety and assurance that healthy appetite and thorough digestion will follow their regular use after meals.

Mr. N. J. Boohar of 2710 Dearborn St., Chicago, Ill., writes: "Catarrh is a local condition, resulting from a neglected cold in the head, whereby the lining membrane of the nose becomes inflamed and the poisonous discharge therefrom passing backward into the throat, reaches the stomach, thus producing catarrh of the stomach. Medical authorities prescribed for me for three years for catarrh of stomach without cure; but today I am the happiest of men after using only one box of Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets. I cannot find appropriate words to express my good feeling. I have found flesh, appetite and sound rest from their use."

Stuart's Dyspepsia Tablets is the safest preparation as well as the simplest and most convenient remedy for any form of indigestion, catarrh of stomach, biliousness, sour stomach, heartburn and bloating after meals.

Send for little book mailed free on stomach troubles, by addressing F. A. Stuart Co., Marshall, Mich. The tablets can be found at all drug stores.

TWO SUPREME VALUES.

No. 117. Ladies' 24-in jacket of finest black boucle cloth, lined throughout, inlaid velvet \$5.00 collar, two pockets. Only \$5.00

No. 401. Magnificent 20-in. ladies' plush capote of best mill seal plush, elaborately beaded and braided and trimmed as shown, with black thibet fur, extremely well lined. Only \$5.00 Give size when ordering.



Our 64-page fashion catalogue No. 70 is free.

Write for it to-day.

EDWARD B. GROSSMAN & CO.

170-172 STATE ST. CHICAGO.

THE GREAT MAIL-ORDER CLOAK-HOUSES.

CANT BEND EM PINS SELF THREADING SEWING NEEDLES

Needle points, black or white, with a double point of wire for collar and cuffs, all standard goods, for can't bend or break them. Ill. catalogue free. Sample for 10c. 2 for 15c, 4 for 25c, 12 for 60c, postpaid. C. E. MARSHALL, Mr., LOCKPORT, N. Y.

THE OLD WAY.

THE NEW WAY.



Guitar, Violin, Mandolin, Banjo Self-Tuner, without notes by FIGURE MUSIC. Catalog free. E. C. HOWE, 600 Bay State Bldg., Chicago.

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By selling to your friends, at 10 cents per packet. We manufacture the pocket, wrist, and chain, you can easily earn a Watch and Chain, Photo Camera, Bicycle, Tea Set, Scroll Saw, Toilet Set, Printing Press, Music Roll, Fountain Pen, Musical Instruments, Gun, Football, Steam Engine, Pocket Book, Gold Rings, Silverware, etc., or you can make a large cash commission. Send your address and we will send you 10 packets, postpaid. When sold, send us the money and we will send you a present according to our premium list (which we send with perfume we offer). No money required. H. L. WASHBURN MFG. CO., 160 Nassau St., New York City.

BIG JOB LOT OF SILK REMNANTS FOR CRAZY PATCH-WORK.

OWING to the hard times there has been dumped on the market extra big lots of odd pieces of silk and satin that are not wanted for fancy work. We were fortunate in securing them cheap, and will give one of our special PANIC PACKAGES to any one sending 10c for a three months' subscription to COMFORT, the Prize Story Magazine. Three lots and an elegant piece of SILK, 16x18 inches, 50 square inches, together with five skins of elegant embroidery silk, all different bright colors, all for 25c. postpaid; 25c. lots for 65c, five for \$1.00.

A Cute Foot-Rest

FREE.

Useful Ornaments are sought after for reasons of the year. People do not realize the quantities of good things are sold through the mails. Inventors are daily trying to get up something to sell by mail that will be pretty, useful, and cheap. A pretty foot-rest could easily be obtained at a low price before (they sell for \$1.00 each at the stores), but by getting up something that is turned out by machine, a pretty colored durable good, to be filled with cotton or any cheap or cast-off substance and then sewn up, we can now give a premium that will be welcome in every room in all the homes from Maine to California. It comes in the shape of a handbag or a Bon Bon, lying down, size about 8x12 inches, and can always be used as an ornament when in use by grandma or yourself or compassed as a Foot Rest. It will create untold merriment when lying in front of the fire, it is so life-like in shape and color. Although entirely new, \$57.396 have already been sold, and millions more will be in use before many months. Agents will find these great sellers, and should order at least a dozen to start.

BIG OFFER. We will send a sample postpaid to anyone sending 13c, for a three months' subscription to this paper. Two Rests and this paper 6 months for 25c; five for 50c.; one dozen, \$1.00; one Rest and 10c. lot Remnants 20c.; one Rest and 25c. lot of Remnants, 25c.

Address COMFORT PUB. CO., Box 133, Augusta, Maine.

USED STAMPS WANTED

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for used or cancelled U. S. postage stamps of the sorts used today. Higher prices paid for old stamps. Here is a chance where any person can actually earn money easily, gathering used stamps. Send 10 cents for price list, so you can begin collecting stamps and selling them without delay.

RELIABLE STAMP CO., Dept. C 168 Elm St., New York City.

Remnants of Silk Ribbons.

We have purchased at recent wholesale auction sale several large lots of Remnants of Silk Ribbons, at prices which will enable our lady customers to secure splendid bargains. These remnants are all from one to two and three yards in length, and many of them are the finest quality of Ribbons in the market, of different widths, in a variety of different kinds of Ribbons adapted for bonnet-strings, neckwear, trimmings for hats and dresses, bows, scarfs, etc., etc. No lady can purchase such fine Ribbons as these at any store in the land for many times our price, so that the bargains offered by us should be taken advantage of by our customers. Our stock of Silk Ribbons from which we put up these 25 cents packages consists of Crown Edge, Gras Gras, Moire, Picot Edge, Silk Brocade, striped Ottoman, and various other styles of Plain and Fancy Silk Ribbons suited to the wants of our lady friends. We put up carefully-assorted packages of Silk Ribbons, no remnants less than one yard long and all first-class, useful goods. One package for 25 cents with subscription, 3 for 75 cents, or one dozen packages, \$2.50. Carefully packed and sent by mail, postpaid upon receipt of price.

Whether you have one or three packages we give in addition a six months' trial subscription; when you send for a dozen you receive them in addition to a whole year's subscription to this paper. They are our special premiums sent with the paper.

SPECIAL OFFER. We want you to get up a club and will send you a package of these ribbons when you send us two subscribers at the yearly trial price of 25 cents each; or, send us a club of six yearly subscribers at the special price of 25 cents each, and we will send six packages to you free.

Address SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.





WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE season is so near at hand for the exchange of Christmas gifts, that doubtless all our readers are already prepared for it, but on the chance of its finding some one unprepared, we give herewith a description of some easily and quickly made articles which may be just what

some one has been waiting for. The medicine glass cover seems to be a new thing—at least it is so to us—and a very useful one it is and so simple. The material used in its construction is a small piece of white linen, a circle of cardboard, embroidery silk and a brass pointer. The cardboard circle is cut the size of the top of an ordinary tumbler; the linen is marked with figures like a clock dial and the words "TAKE AT," and with small scallops around the edge; the figures and words and scallops are then embroidered in any color desired, and the linen is then trimmed out around the scallops; the linen is then laid onto the cardboard, which is just the size of the linen



MEDICINE GLASS COVER.

inside of the scallops; a hole is made exactly in the centre of linen and cardboard, the little brass pointer laid on and a brass split paper fastener put through all, fastening on the back side. The whole thing is then just the width of the scallops larger than the top of a tumbler, and when laid on a tumbler, not only excludes the air from the medicine, but relieves one's mind of the exact time at which the medicine is to be taken again, as the pointer is placed so as to plainly indicate this. If it is found that the pointers are difficult to buy, make one of the cardboard and paint it the color of the silk used for the embroidery—or ink it over—anything to make it perfectly plain at a glance; the fasteners come by the box and may be obtained anywhere. These covers retail for seventy-five cents each, and yet the material for a dozen would scarcely amount to that and the work is very little—yet what a useful and desirable present it makes.

Where to hang the watch at night is a question we all ask at various times, until we find the right place. For a simple and convenient watch rest we give the following description and illustration:

It is made of linen, embroidered with a scroll-like design—this particular one being of yellow linen embroidered with white silk. Two pieces of stiff cardboard are cut exactly alike and of the shape shown, being about five inches long and four inches high at the highest point. After the linen is embroidered and a large hook sewn on near the top for the watch to hang on, cover one of the pieces of cardboard with it, and paste the other piece onto the back to make it look neat and cover all raw edges. To the back side then paste a narrow piece of the stiff cardboard of the right length to make the easel tip back at the right angle—the strip being the prop. Such an easel may also be made of silk or of any material that is at hand, but if made of figured silk or plaid, it should not be embroidered.

Most men find that a pincushion that rests on the top of the chiffoniere is in the way—as all they need is something to hold their scarf pins; it is, therefore, much better to have some kind of a hanging cushion that is always there and yet never obtrusive. For this purpose take a circle of cardboard, say five inches diameter; near the edge sew a ruffle of inch wide gathered satin ribbon; inside of that sew another gathered ruffle of the same width but in a contrasting color; this will leave an uncovered



WATCH EASEL.

circle of three inches in the center; upon this glue a cushion made of the same color as the outside ribbon; have it quite thick, so that pins will not go through to the cardboard back.

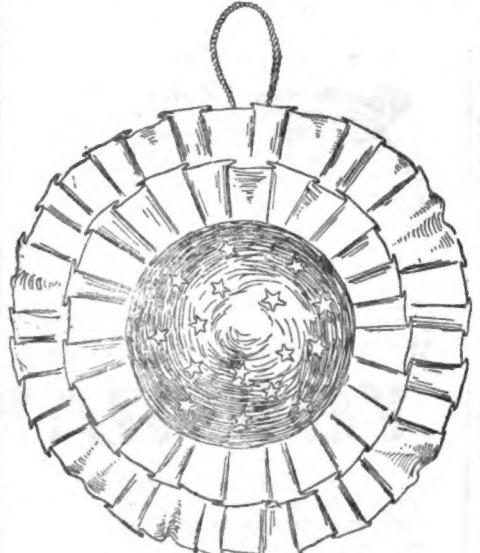
Then put a loop of narrow ribbon or silk cord at the top and it is all ready to hang at the side of the mirror. The one here illustrated is of our national colors—being red for the outside ruffle, white for the next, and the cushion is made of a deep blue covered with gold stars.

The banner picture frame is simple and very pretty when the right combination of colors is selected. It is made of six strips of inch wide satin ribbon, fringed for an inch at the bottom of each strip and at the top hemmed, and into the hem is run a whalebone; the proportion is about six inches wide by nine inches long. The photograph is held in its place by means of small hooks with the hump, which hold it securely, and these hooks are placed where the edges of a cabinet photograph would come, if laid in the middle of the frame. Of course such a picture would have to be laid on and the places marked for the four hooks. The strips of ribbon are held together by rows of featherstitching, and a silk cord is sewed at the top for hanging.

"E. J. C." of Emporia, Kansas, sends us the following valuable suggestions, for which we all thank her:

Those who have heavy Brussels or Moquette carpets often find it convenient to clean them without taking them from the floor and this can be very easily and satisfactorily done. Tear some old newspapers into small pieces,

soak them in water, then roll them between the hands until they form soft little balls. Scatter them thickly over the carpet, then give it a thorough sweeping with broom. The paper will collect the dust and keep it from flying about. Prepare a cleansing mixture by dissolving two bars of white soap in half a gallon of hot water and adding four ounces of powdered borax. Add enough of this mixture to a pan of warm water to make a strong suds and scrub the carpet with it, using a brush and taking only a small place at a time, just as you would scrub a floor. When the place you are washing is clean, wipe it with a soft rag wrung out of clear water, and proceed in this way until you have gone over the entire carpet; or if only a small portion is soiled, this may be washed and the remainder left as it is. The borax is a great help in cleaning the carpet and does not injure the colors. When the work is done, open the windows and doors and let the



PIN CUSHION.

air have free access so it will dry quickly. Rugs may be fastened to a board or table by tacking them down at the corners, and cleaned in the same way.

\$100 A Month and Expenses This Winter. We want a good man or woman in every district who is honest, sober and industrious, to engage with us for 1899. \$100.00 a month and expenses for right party selling our Quaker Bath Cabinet and appointing agents in unoccupied territory. No experience necessary. No trade to learn. We furnish everything.

This wonderful Cabinet is needed for bathing purposes in every home. It opens the pores, sweats out the poisons that cause disease, and provides at home all the cleansing, purifying and invigorating effects of the famous Turkish and Medicated Vapor Baths. A regular Hot Springs at home. Cures a bad cold in one night. A good position to those who mention this paper and write us at once, giving age and references. The World Mfg. Co., Cincinnati, O.

A GIFT OF EMBROIDERY SILK.

Embroidery silk will cost you a lot of money bought at the store. We have a great jobbing-house lot of rich silk bought at wholesale. No high retail price with a lot of middle profits; but we get actual cost price. We want to give the whole benefit to our lady readers. We have prepared a lot of assorted packages containing a liberal supply of bright, rich, new silk in a variety of tones and shades, which would cost a heap of money bought at the stores. We will send our illustrated bargain list and full assorted, large sized silk package for the ridiculously low price of ten cents; or, three packages for twenty cents. Write to-day before the rush. S. W. LANE & CO., Augusta, Maine.

FOUND. A glue, mucilage, Cement, combined. Accidentally discovered. To introduce send 20 cts. for full size bottle. Hercules Cement Co., Skowhegan, Maine.

GEARHART'S IMPROVED FAMILY KNITTING MACHINE
Cheapest and best. Send 12¢ and get yours free. Send for particulars, and free samples of work knit on my new Ribbing Attachment. Yarn in stock. Address J. E. GEARHART, Box 4, CLEARFIELD, PA.

COMFORT.

\$4.95 BUYS A MAN'S ALL-WOOL SUIT

of rich, BLACK CHEVIOT, warranted best fast color.

Guaranteed equal in quality, style and looks to others best \$10.00 suits. We sell 1000 suits at \$4.95 after 1000 are sold. Order quick or they may be gone; you can't afford to miss this wonder chance. The Material is the Best All-Wool Black Cheviot, famous everywhere for its perfect weave. Mill from fine, picked wool yarn dyed by a new process and cannot fade. It is heavy weight, firmly woven, will positively not fade or shrink, and will last a lifetime. It's exactly the same cloth used in the Cheviot suits that retail everywhere for \$10.00. Remember, it's exactly \$4.95 after they're gone, the price will be \$8.50. Don't delay, but order to-day before they are all gone.

The Making. Expert Suit Tailors will make the suit in the latest

Sack style to fit perfect, line it with Holdman's Celebrated Farmer's Satin, pipe it with Skinners Famous AAA Satin, pad it extra well, use best grade of canvas for stiffening and sew every seam with pure silk and linen thread.

Send No Money in advance but send this advertisement with your Height, Weight, Chest, Waist and Girth measure; we'll send the suit by express C. O. D. and allow you to examine and try it on before you pay one cent. If exactly as represented the greatest bargain on earth and worth double the price we ask, then pay the express agent \$1.50 and expressage and take the suit. Pay nothing if unsatisfactory and we will return it at our expense. THE LOUIS R. VEHON CO., 155-157 W. Jackson St., Chicago, Ill.

Please mention COMFORT when you write.

SPECTACLES at wholesale, Send for catalog. Agents wanted. COULTER OPTICAL CO., Chicago, Ill.

LADIES WANTED to take up stamping at home. We pay 10 cents an hour while learning. H. F. JONES, Dept. I, Brooklyn, N. Y.

1 YARD SILK GOODS, all in one piece, suitable for dress trimming or fancy work, sent for 10 cents postage. J. SILK CO., BEAVER SPRINGS, PA.

700 Sample Styles of Silk Fringe Cards, Hidden Name Cards, Love Cards, Scrap Pictures, Games, Pictures, Almanacs, etc. Send 10 cents postage and Agents Sample Album of over 1000 Cards. Send 50¢ stamp for postage. BANNER CARD CO., CADIZ, OHIO.

\$9.50 BUYS A HIGH GRADE VICTOR SWINGING WATCH Adapted to Light and Heavy Work. Reliable and Finely Finished; Guaranteed for 10 Years. Write for 40 Page Catalogue. Attachment Free. 30 DAYS FREE TRIAL. Address Dept. 99, VICTOR SWING WATCH CO., 90-92 Market St., Chicago.

740 Silk Fringe Cards, Love, Transparent, Novelty & Acquaintance Cards, LAUGHING CAMERA, Prize Puzzles, New Games, Magical Illusions, etc. Finest Sample Book of Visiting and Hidden Name CARDS. Biggest list of Premiums All for 5¢ stamp. OHIO CARD CO., Cadiz, Ohio.

LADIES TO EMBROIDER. We send work to your home prepaid. Send addressed envelope for one piece of embroidery with prices paid. If our terms or work are not to your liking, you may return at our expense. Steady work and good pay. Empire Embroidery Works, Dept. C, 23 Duane St., New York.

Quilt Patterns We want every quilter to have our book of 400 designs, containing the prettiest, queerest, rarest, most grotesque patterns from old log cabin to stars and puzzle designs. All sent postage paid for 10c. 7th revised edition, beautiful, unique. Ladies' Art Co., 203 Pine St., St. Louis, Mo.

Free! Our Golden Watch has the appearance of one worth \$40.00. The Watch is accompanied by a 20 Year GUARANTEE. The cases are beautifully made by the most skilled workmen. The movement is an AMERICAN STYLE, full plate, expansion balance, etc. The watch is very thin and light. You will always have the correct time in your possession.

Do you want a watch of this character? If so, now is your opportunity to secure one. To introduce our Golden Watch, we will send you a Golden Watch for Free. If you will take advantage of our marvellous offer. If you want one, write to us without delay. With your letter send us 12¢ in stamps, or 10¢ silver for the watch and we will send you the watch and our offer. You can produce a picture of all time have the correct time in your possession.

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Our Golden Watch has the appearance of one worth \$40



CONDUCTED BY EVERETT G. WHEELMAN.

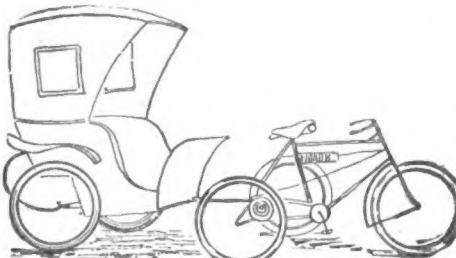
THE recent war has stimulated the interest in bicycles and tricycles as applied to army use. In England, especially, is this interest manifest and the radical men in the Queen's army who are desirous of introducing this new feature into the army are convinced of its importance as an offensive innovation. Col. Stacey of the famous Scots Guard is the man who first suggested the use of the bicycle in the English army, and, after twelve years persistent hammering away at his pet idea, he has at last succeeded in getting the authorities to look with favor upon the plan to establish a well drilled cycling corps in the regular army. The volunteers, as the organization that in America would be called the national guard is known there, have long had their cycling corps. The war office tried to discourage the idea when it was first mooted, but their opposition failed to prevent the formation, on April 1st, 1889, of the first military cycling corps, the 26th Middlesex volunteers. To-day it is the largest, smartest and most efficient corps in the country and it is mainly due to the exertions that the war office has been induced ultimately to adopt the cycle in connection with the regular service. Although not attached to any particular battalion, this corps always accompanies the South London brigade upon its marches. At the present moment it can mobilize a force of one hundred and twenty men. It is a curious circumstance that when this corps was founded, it applied in the natural course of things to the war office for an official drill; but even this formality was denied the cyclists, and they were thus compelled to formulate their own drill. Col. Saville, when he severed his connection with the regular forces, held the commandership of this corps for two years.

When Lord Wolseley stepped into the position of commander-in-chief of the British army, vacated by the Duke of Cambridge, it was anticipated that some concession to the cyclists would be made as Lord Wolseley had declared "that they would be invaluable, especially upon the fine roads in India." But the anticipation was not realized, and it was only recently that the army authorities relented, and now propose to draw a certain number of men from the regulars, and to thoroughly inculcate them in cycling drill at Aldershot. The maneuvers have shown that in action the military cyclist requires plenty of room to move around smartly. This is another reason why the campaign in Cuba could not have been taken as a criterion of the success or failure of the bicycle in war. When extended in a lateral line, one yard must be left between each man to enable him to ground his machine without clashing with his neighbor. When marching in files, or single file, that is one behind the other in one longitudinal line—a distance of one foot at least—or as it is called in the military vernacular, a "cycle distance"—must be maintained between each bicycle. As may be naturally supposed, to

the many that the cyclist soldier has over the cavalryman is this: supposing cavalrymen wish to dismount in order to use their carbines, one man out of every four must hold the bridles of the horses for his three comrades so that the attacking force is thereby reduced by 25 per cent. Even when driven to bay a posse of cyclists is by no means a despicable foe. In this eventuality they take up their position behind the grounded cycles, from whence they can maintain a terrible fire. One hundred cyclists in such position could fire about forty thousand rounds so that they could without doubt account for a fairly good number of their opponents before their ammunition was expended.

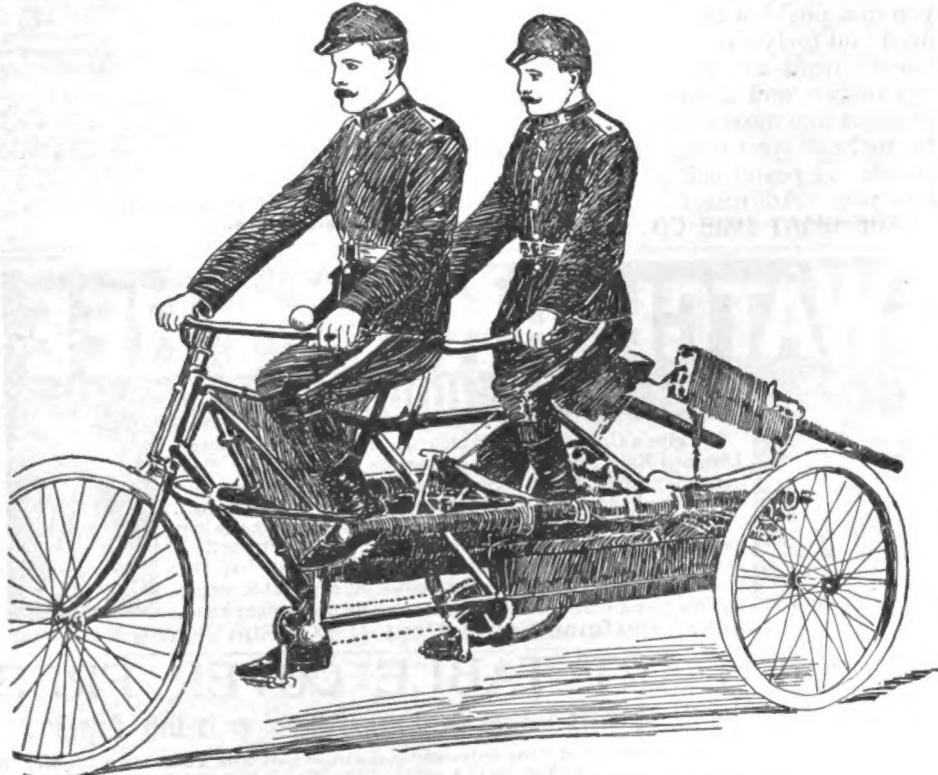
The cyclist soldier's paramount business is skirmishing, reconnoitring, carrying dispatches and obtaining information, in which departments he is eminently successful, being able to hold out longer than can the horse of a cavalryman. It is pre-eminence in these duties of war which has earned for the cycle corps the apposite cognomen of "the eyes and ears of the army." After nightfall, owing to the rapidity and silence with which he moves the cyclist is especially efficacious, being able to creep along noiselessly in the shadow, and at the psychological moment whiz by the sentry. When armed with the quick-firing machine guns, with which they are about to be equipped, these cyclist soldiers will form a most formidable corps in the British volunteer army.

The automobile vehicle, as the various notices



CAB HITCHED TO MOTOR TRICYCLE.

of its adoption for one purpose and another clearly demonstrate, is very slowly but none the less surely working its way into public favor on both sides of the Atlantic. American buyers are confessedly more conservative in the adoption of the horseless wagons than English interests, consequently the editorial discussion of the present merit of motor delivery vans by one of the foremost English trade journals is interesting. This paper admits that motor cars are not perfect, but it also points out that neither is the horse a perfect machine for traction purposes. The great question is entirely one of cost, and there is no doubt that after fair trial a good motor-van, especially when only used intermittently, will be found cheaper than a horse. Many firms, the account continues, are using motor-vans



TANDEM, WITH RAPID FIRE GUN AND AMMUNITION CHESTS.

maintain anything like order and uniformity the speed of marching has to be gauged by the pace of the slowest rider, but the average marching speed is about ten miles an hour. This fluctuates, however, according to the conditions of the road and weather. It is almost impossible to maintain an absolutely compact order, as accidents to the machines, such as a puncture, compel a man to drop out. As a rule, while en route, the cyclists "march at ease," and although they may not leave their positions they have a little more latitude extended to them than to the ordinary soldiers, being permitted to talk and smoke.

As an advance guard it has been demonstrated that the military cyclist is invaluable. He presents a very small mark as compared with a cavalryman, and when he is pursued nothing short of a breakdown of his wheel can stop him. His tactics are bewildering, for he can advance and retire so swiftly that an enemy never knows where he has been or where to look for him next. Another advantage among

more for advertisement than economy, but in large towns the novelty of the thing has now worn off and its advertising value is proportionately diminished. The cost of a good serviceable petroleum-driven van to carry loads of ten or fifteen hundred weight is roughly given as twelve hundred dollars; for tradesmen's purposes a petroleum-driven motor van is recommended as a first preference, and a steam motor, one fired by petroleum as second choice. Among the points which it is important to ascertain beforehand, especially for those who live in hilly districts, is what gradients the vehicle will ascend. Simplicity of construction is one of the most important features after this.

A particularly novel type of automobile advertised in an English journal as light and gracefully constructed is shown in the illustration, which represents a combination coupe and motor tricycle. The motor-cycle is detachable from the carriage and can be ridden by itself, but when attached as shown it serves

the purpose of a horse. The groom or footman is supposed to sit in the motor-tricycle saddle, and to start the combination by two or three turns of the pedals after which the petroleum-driven motor attached to the rear of the tricycle develops sufficient power to propel the cab without any further assistance. The oil reservoir will hold a sufficient quantity of oil to carry the cab between fifty and sixty miles. The cab is stated to hold two persons comfortably.

SELF HOME TREATMENT FOR LADIES.

I will send free, with full instructions, some of this simple preparation for the cure of Leucorrhœa, Ulceration, Displacement and all female troubles, to all ladies sending address. I have nothing to sell. Tell other sufferers of it—that is all I ask. Mrs. SUMMERS, Box C, Notre Dame, Ind.

Six Steel Pens Free.

Millions of people use steel pens and we have bought an immense lot which we want to introduce into new families. Will send six of different kinds, fine, coarse and medium, to all who send two cents for mailing expenses. Lane & Co., Augusta Maine.

HIGH ARM. USE IT FREE
30 days in your own home before paying one cent in advance; shipped anywhere, to anyone, for 30 days' test trial. We risk you. \$60 White Star Machine. \$25.00
\$50 Pearl Machine. \$18.00
\$40 Standard. \$19. \$12.50. \$15.00
Full set of attachments free; buy from factory and save \$10 to \$40; WE PAY FREIGHT; thousands in use; catalog, showing 20 other styles, free. Each machine guaranteed 10 years.

Consolidated Wholesale Supply Co.

Address (in full) Dept. 58 216 S. Clinton St., Chicago, Ill.

Boys & Girls

We are giving away Watches, Cameras, Solid Gold Rings, Sporting Goods, Musical Instruments & many other valuable premiums to boys & girls for selling 15 packages of Royal English Ink Powder at 10c. each. Every package makes 50c. worth of fine ink. We ask no money—send your name and address & we will forward you 18 packages with premium list and full instructions. When you send the Ink Powder send the money to us and return your empty box. This is an honest way to make money. Don't lose this grand opportunity. Write for the outfit today. Address all orders to IMPERIAL INK CONCERN, 22 Adams St. Brooklyn, N. Y.

TALKING MACHINES! All kinds; \$1.50 and upward; catalogue 2c. stamp. COLUMBIA T. M. CO., Dept. 14, HOBOKEN, N. J.

SPANISH NEEDLES, GOLDS.

etc., for gold hunters and treasure seekers. Latest improved. Circulars free.

P. & M. AGENCY, Palmyra, Pa.

HANDSOME MUSTACH or LOVELY HAIR Grown with our TURKISH HAIR GROWER in 8 weeks or money refunded. NO MORE BALD HEADS or SMOOTH FACES. We warrant every package and offer \$1000 forfeit this is the QUICKEST, EASIEST, and also HARMLESS. Full treatment, 25cts., 3 for 50c. Avoid dangerous imitations. TREMONT MANUF. CO., Station A, BOSTON, MASS.

EXQUISITE RINGS FREE

We will give a Beautiful Solid Gold finished ring warrant to any person who will sell 10 of our beautiful enameled pins at 10c. each. Send name and address and we will mail pins postpaid. You sell them and remit \$1 and we will mail the ring. CLARK & CO., 100 Clinton St., Providence, R. I.

CHILD LOST For 18 years.

Stolen from the Cradle. She was told who and where her parents lived by ZEMINDAR, The Great Hindu Seer, who foretells correctly Private Affairs, Health and Business. Send stamp for particulars. Box G, 245, Saratoga, New York.

FREE! FREE!!

Any one can earn this Beautiful Gold Plated Hunting Case Stem Winderm Watch, Charm, and Chain (guaranteed) a perfect timekeeper, by selling our ELECTRIC LAMP WICKS. They can be sold in a few hours. They are practically indestructible. No trimming; no smoke; no smell. Our GRAND 90-DAY OFFER: \$1.00 and we will send you 20 wicks, postpaid; you will sell them at 10c. each and remit us \$1, and we will mail to you address, free, a Beautiful Gold Plated Watch Chain and Charm.

ELECTRICAL WICK COMPANY, Dept. C, Orange, N. J.

TRIAL TREATMENT FREE!!

To Sufferers from Kidney and Bladder Diseases, this is a Wonderful Offer. The Only Known Complete Cure sent to the Afflicted Free of Charge.

If you suffer from any chronic kidney or bladder disease, Bright's disease, diabetes, dropsy, inflammation of the membranes, stricture, urethral inflammation, rheumatism, torpid liver, and in fact any disease occasioned by disease of the kidneys, and will send me your address at once. I will mail you absolutely FREE OF CHARGE a package of Dr. Boles' Specific, which is a standard medicine and sovereign cure for these diseases in every form and phase.

It is the product of the greatest of specialists in these complaints and has been used for years with most marvelous success. You should avail yourself at once of this splendid offer, for it costs you nothing and may save your life. There is no C. O. D. cash or fraud about it, the medicine is sent you free. Thousands of testimonials from men and women of all ages.

DR. D. A. WILLIAMS, East Hampton, Conn.

WONDERFUL ASTROLOGY.

Here are some questions that interest most people. It is claimed they can be answered by astrological knowledge.

At what age am I liable to die? What diseases, afflictions or accidents am I liable to?

Will I marry? Will I marry more than once? At about what age? Will I have children?

What kind of a person should I marry? Will my love affair be successful? What person truly loves me?

Is my love affair to be successful? Should I travel? Should I take a long or short journey?

Should I take a partner in my business? Should I take a partner in my business?

What business or calling am I best adapted for? Will I ever lose in lawsuits or in gambling?

Will I ever lose in lawsuits or in gambling? Should I purchase real estate or personal property?

At what age or in what years will I be most lucky? Are my friends trustworthy? Who can I trust?

Shall I enjoy the luxuries of wealth? Am I liable to recover lost property? Where is money buried?

Should I do business for myself or for others?

If you want valuable astrological information with a pen picture of your future wife, husband or sweetheart, send a lock of your hair, give date of birth, and full name and address. Enclose 12 cents in stamps. You will be astonished at the true revelations that I will make. Address, PROF. A. D. ARGO, Box 1207, BOSTON, MASS.

THE MAGICAL SPONGE. THE WONDER OF THE 20th CENTURY. For Polishing and Cleaning Windows, Signs, Mirrors, Show Cases, Gold, Silver, Nickel, also Jewelry, Copper, Brass and Tin. For the Bath IT HAS NO EQUAL.

A Labor-some device entirely new and universal in demand. Will last a lifetime and costs but Twenty-five cents. Just as the market and over 500 Gross sold last month. Every family in the market and one or more. All you do to sell them is simply show the lady of the house or the office how it works on her window and you will depart with one less every time, but in its place a quarter.

The Magical Sponge differs from the ordinary sponge in nature while the common sponge is of vegetable origin and found in the ocean, the magical sponge is of mineral origin and found in the United States dug from the ground, carefully prepared and manufactured into sponges for the Housekeeper, Merchant, Liverman, Metal Workers, and all persons who desire to keep their homes, office and business places in a clean and healthy condition.

No Soap or water is needed or even used with the magical sponge. For Cleaning Windows or any outside Metal. In the winter time when it is the (the) all trouble and hard work is avoided. For Cleaning Mashes, Window Sills, Walls, Painting and painted surfaces. It cuts like a charm; takes all the finger marks, spots, grease and dirt away, leaving a Clean, Polished Surface.

Good men wanted all over the country to handle these goods, big inducements offered steady workers, and exclusive sale. To Agents, Salesmen, and house to house workers, who will send \$5.00 for 6 months' subscription, we will send one sample post paid, and make them a business proposition. Write at once. Secure your territory. Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

YOU MAY BE NEXT

One person out of every four has a weak or diseased heart, and still very few people are aware of it. The trouble is that most doctors don't understand heart troubles. They very often treat patients for disorders of the Stomach, Lungs, Kidneys and Nerves, when the trouble is in the heart itself.

You can tell whether your heart is affected better than a physician. The signs and symptoms are sure and certain. If you have any one of the following symptoms, you are in grave danger, and may be the next victim to drop dead.

Symptoms of HEART DISEASE

Fluttering, Palpitation, or Skipping Beats (always due to weak or diseased heart); Shortness of Breath from going up stairs, walking, etc.; Tenderness, Numbness or Pain in left side, arm or under shoulder blade; Fainting Spells, Dizziness, Hungry or Weak Spells; Spots Before the Eyes; Sudden Starting in Sleep; Dreaming, Nightmare; Choking Sensation in Throat; Oppressed Feeling in Chest; Cold Hands and Feet; Painful to Lie on Left Side; Drowsy; Swelling of the Feet or Ankles (one of the surest signs); Neuralgia Around the Heart; Sudden deaths rarely result from other causes.

MEDICINE SENT FREE.

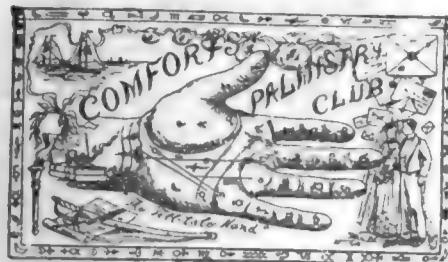
I have a positive cure in my Heart Tablets for this most dreaded of all diseases. I am daily curing hundreds of men and women. To show my confidence in my Heart Tablets, I will send, postpaid, a box for trial absolutely free to any sufferers who will send their name and address. This liberal offer should be accepted at once, because heart disease is always fatal, and death comes like a flash of lightning. Enclose stamp for postage. Address, DR. AUSTIN ALBRO, Lock Box 962 Augusta, Maine.

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TANDEM, WITH RAPID FIRE GUN AND AMMUNITION CHESTS.



CONDUCTED BY DIGITUS.

I AM sorry that I cannot keep up with all the hands that are sent in so as to give each one the first reading after they are received, but it is impossible and I have to take them in order as they come. Space is limited, and I shall have to ask those who are still waiting to see their impressions appear in *COMFORT*, to be patient another month.

The first hand which I shall read this month is the hand of "America." I must say in the first place that these impressions were not properly treated and that nothing was used to prevent the smoke from rubbing off the paper. The bits of cork which were stuck around here and there did not prevent the impressions from rubbing somewhat, so that I shall not pretend that this reading will be infallible in all particulars. The main lines, however, are distinct enough so that I can follow them without much trouble.

The life line is a good one, although considerably bound in with the head line during the early years which indicates that there was not much independence of thought. There is a break in the center which is joined together with a square. This square means protection against some serious mishap, probably a sickness, at this point in the life. As the marks do not appear in the right hand probably this trouble will never appear. All lines running upward in any place in the hand are always good signs. The future of this person will evidently be pleasanter than the earlier part of the life. It looks, so far as I can judge from these impressions, clear and good without any serious troubles. She will travel somewhat toward the latter part of her life. She will probably outlive her husband, but will either live with him until she is fifty-five, or so, or she will marry again the second time. The lines are blurred in this instance so that I cannot tell whether it is the same line or not. There is not much indication of money in this hand although no lines of extreme poverty appear. She will be sensible and affectionate, and have many friends. I do not see any serious trouble in her married life; in fact I should say it was a happy one. She is inclined to be somewhat melancholy in her disposition, and broods over imaginary trouble too much. This is a tendency which she ought to overcome, and which will add to her unhappiness, unless overcome. She has a hand for business, but it is impossible to tell from anybody's hand whether they will positively go into business, or not. All we can say is that in case she goes into business life she has the right kind of hand to succeed. Although, as I said before she will never be very rich, she will be in comfortable circumstances. She is lofty in her motives and aspirations, but should cultivate a spirit of content. She is extremely fond of poetry and of sentimental fiction, and of anything that is morbid in literature. She should not indulge in these things, as she is too morbid and sensitive in her nature. She should cultivate cheerfulness and hope, and fight against a tendency toward discouragement. If grief comes to her she will be very seriously affected by it, and inclined to give up too easily. This she must also try to overcome. She will be inclined to lung troubles, or bronchial, and should guard against that as much as possible. On the whole I should say hers was a rather fortunate career, with no more trouble than belongs to ordinary individuals.

The little hands which she sends evidently belong to a child. There is some sort of illness, or fatality at the age of about twenty from which the subject will probably be preserved and will live to a reasonably good age. The mother of this child should be careful that it does not overwork at school as there is a slight tendency to brain troubles. Her health will be delicate through childhood, and she will need care until she is twenty-five. After that her health will be good most of her life. I should judge that she was a very promising child, and had some talent which will be developed later.



"FAILURE."

"Failure" failed to use fixatif on his impressions so that they too are quite badly rubbed, although it is possible to read something from them. No matter how well the impressions may look when you are sending them out, unless the smoke and the lines are firmly fixed by spraying them with fixatif, or some preparation of gum arabic, and allowing them to dry perfectly, they will not be in good condition when they reach me, as there is constant rubbing in the mail. "Failure" seems to have chosen a name for himself that is not exactly appropriate for he has some very good lines. He has the hand of a successful business man; one with good judgment, perseverance, and in the main good health. He may be depended

upon by his friend, or by his enemies. He will make some money and during the latter part of his life will be well off. He will, however, have to make it for himself, as what comes to him is not through luck, but through his own efforts and perseverance. He is a man of great tact and strong will power, and is not easily influenced by others. He will have a severe illness at about the age of fifty, and great care will have to be used to pull him through. If he gets through with that all right he will live to be seventy or over. He will marry early in life and have a very congenial partner, and lead a happy life up to the age of fifty or afterward. His life will not be without crosses and dangers, however, and he will have many things to contend against. There will be opposition from friends and from foes, but his sterling qualities will lead him to fight against them,

and he will succeed. His Mount of Mars is well developed, and I should think the line of Mars, which adds to his fighting qualities, was also well developed. By fighting I do not mean a rough and tumble fight, but that sort of courage which will stand him in good stead in fighting the obstacles which may come up before him in life. On the whole his is a successful hand unless I am greatly mistaken in the impression which is before me.

"Eugenia" sends some of the best impressions which I have seen for some time. I only wish I could have them reproduced exactly as they come to me so that you might all see what I mean when I say they are good impressions. "Eugenia's" hand shows many ups and downs, but is, on the whole, a very fortunate one. She is a person of highly nervous temperament; very refined, fond of music, art and literature. Fond of good company, admiration, travel, and all the good things of life. She is, however, a person of a great deal of good sense and good judgment and does not allow her liking for good things to lead her into trouble. Naturally she is inclined to a rather morbid turn of mind, but she has overcome this in a large measure, and will do so as she gets older. She has had much opposition to meet from friends during the early part of her life, but the latter part will be free from this sort of thing, and will have many things to be thankful for. There are many upward rising lines from her life line which shows that the influences are good and that her life will improve as it grows older. I don't think she will have children; not many at least. Two marriages are indicated, although the first may be only an engagement. The second marriage, if it is the second, will take place at about the age of thirty-five or forty, and will be exceptionally happy. The health was not good through childhood, and will be delicate all through life; that is, the constitution is not very strong. There is a star in the center of both hands, which is a good sign, indicating brilliancy and good fortune. She will have many friends, and be much respected in places where she lives. She has a strong will, is a person of tact, and is a leader in the society in which she moves. She is naturally formed for a leader and will take a prominent part wherever she lives in all matters in which she is interested. She will have plenty of this world's goods and they will increase as she grows older. She has an exceptionally strong and clear marriage line, especially the last one. She will travel a good deal, mostly in her own country, and will die in her native land. She has had a great deal of admiration from the opposite sex, and is probably a very attractive woman. On the whole, although her hand indicates a very sensitive, nervous temperament, with some ill health, and some trouble caused through the affections, it is a very fortunate hand and indicates a fine character and a great degree of success.

The other palm which she sends is marked "Luna" and is probably her own left hand. This indicates a much more morbid tendency than the first one, and a person who is much given to sentimental thoughts and reading; one who could write poetry if she chose, and who would be rather inclined to revel in gloomy thoughts and morbid sensations. Her health, according to this would naturally not be good, and would break up in old age with rather unfortunate symptoms. She would not live to be more than fifty or sixty. Her marriage would be of short duration, and she would have a long illness from the age of thirty. An early attachment which appears at the very beginning grows away and separates, showing that this friend recedes from her life and does not enter it again. Her marriage at about twenty-five or thereabouts, is a happy one, and there is a line joining the fate line on Saturn which would indicate happiness and good fortune in old age. The heart line indicates many flirtations, but a good deal of good sense and strong affection, and marriage at last with man of the Saturnian type. She would be very brilliant, and shine in society and could succeed in literature should she make the attempt. She has many troubles, however, caused by the affections, up to the age of thirty, after which life would be calmer as long as it lasted. If this is the left hand of Eugenia, I should say that she has greatly improved upon it and that her prospects, according to the right hand, which is the one we believe in, are very much improved.

Digitus



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Poor old Columbus! Even his bones can not rest in peace in the busy bustling land that he discovered. After lying for years in the cathedral of Havana they are to be taken back to Spain. Spain's last permanent possession in the vast continent which he gave her, is to be the bones of the man whose living body she loaded with chains and whose heart she broke with ingratitude.

Christmas is most emphatically the children's holiday. When the Lord of the Earth became a little child he gave a dignity and a sanctity to that state, and every passing Christmas but emphasizes the value to the world of child life. At best the Christmas for "grown ups" is a festival with a slight tinge of sadness, but to the child with his faith in Santa Claus and general trustfulness it is a time of riotous, unadulterated joy. A Christmas away from the influence of children is a Christmas in name only.

The old Persian poet Omar Khayam continues to tempt translation to give new versions of his most ancient of modern ideas. Miss Elizabeth Curtis, a New England girl, has won much praise among literary people for her new rendering of the thought. Edward Fitzgerald first made the Western world familiar with the line of thought of the Persian; then came the translation of Richard Le Galliene and now this later translation. Many of the quatrains are sung in the song cycle "In a Persian Garden."

"Peace on earth; good will to men," comes home to the mind of the average American with great force at this particular time. One needs a touch of war to know what peace means. The great unrest in Europe deepens the significance which the message of peace bears to us. With France, Germany and England jostling each other in the Dark Continent, with the Russian Bear and the British Lion reaching at each other across the Flowered Kingdom, the American felicitates himself that in his taste of what a famous general calls "hell" he has maintained principle at the minimum sacrifice of life.

How common sense, convenience and comfort all go down before the all conquering touch of fashion. Golf, bicycling and Rainy Day Club have opened a vista of freedom before the civilized victims of long skirts. It was predicted by optimists that the long thralldom of the skirt had passed forever and its emancipated victims skipped in athletic glee over the fences of convention. But alas! Dame Fashion extended her wand and the skirts clung in uncomfortable tightness around the body and trailed in defiant protest behind the meek victims. When my lady is not athletic she must wear an uncomfortably long skirt.

Christmas 1898, offers a few inducements to cheer the way of the man who wishes to give "Her" a Christmas gift and yet is at a total loss as to what form the offering shall take. Bracelets and ear-rings after being under the ban of fashion for many years are again popular. Old chamois bags are gotten out and the jewelry that has been hopelessly out of style for years is now the "latest" thing. It would seem that the war had brought with it a revival of the fashions of 1860, for the ear-rings are of the long, drooping variety. We may be so near the annexation of lands where the nose rings are still popular adornments for women, that this semi-savage decoration of our women may be

but an effort to convince these dwellers in "waste lands apart" that they are not entirely an alien race. Whatever this decoration may indicate of our civilization, it certainly smooths the path of the troubled seeker after Christmas gifts.

One of the most interesting questions raised by the annexation of Porto Rico was the one of the right of suffrage. A native of Porto Rico claimed the right to vote in the November elections in New York. He claimed that he was now a citizen of the United States, possessed of the legal qualifications for the right of suffrage demanded in New York. It was a question that was entirely new and its settlement involved many nice points in constitutional law. We have had much interesting information in regard to this little island which is the first fruits of our conquest. Its civilization seems very strange and very foreign to our ideas, but Yankee push and enterprise will soon eliminate all the obsolete fashions that seem so primitive and so peculiar to the average citizen. It is said that nearly every one in Porto Rico keeps a horse and carriage. In a few months we can imagine the "electrics" whizzing through the one-time quiet little Spanish colony. The natives hailed the raising of the Stars and Stripes with cheers. It was a most dramatic passing of the old, but the most dramatic contrasts will be presented when American commercialism takes the place of the old methods.

Sorosis, after spurning the ground for years and indulging in airy flights of fancy, philosophy and facts, has at last touched bottom. When an enterprising shoe dealer succeeded in gaining official warrant to have a shoe named after the Club and proceeded to advertise the "Sorosis Shoe" the wrath of the members knew no bounds. It was a very practical, commonsense sort of shoe too. But Sorosis has a soul above its shoe strings and emphatically resents lending its elevating influence to "soles" spelled in that way. The Sorosis bonnet has long been a "joy forever" to the irreverent reporters, who refused to see in it "a thing of beauty." One prominent member even tied her handkerchief over her much maligned bonnet when she came out from a meeting to give some stray crumbs of information to a reporter. One would expect the Sorosis shoe to combine an extremely fashionable shape with a breadth of sole and a superfine quality of uppers not to be met with in a shoe that was only stylish or one that was only practical. In future ages the naturalist who can build an animal up from the bones of the foot may gaze at the final remains of a Sorosis shoe and from this give to future ages the combination of qualities that produce a member of Sorosis.

The current publications and the book stores are submerged in a flood of "golf literature." The bicycling story is emphatically a back number. The golf vocabulary is too technical to hold the attention of the unfashionable outsider who is not a "golf fiend." Even the Scotch dialect story is plain reading beside the "fluffy," "tee," "put," "bunker," "nine up and seven to play," "woozle," and kindred terms that enliven the pages of golf literature. The snow fall must of necessity curb the enthusiasm of golf players, but such little details as fall rains and mists were treated with the sublime indifference to discomfort that distinguishes a true devotee to the historic game. The outsider is led to wonder if it is fun or fashion that gives the game its great vogue among people of leisure. There is a utility side to the bicycling craze that ensures its existence even though the stamp of fashionable approval has been withdrawn. When it became possible for the 4,000,000 as well as for the "400" to own a wheel the fashionable vogue of the sport vanished. The workingman or workingwoman does not cease to regard the wheel as a pleasure as well as a convenience. "Golfing" with its expensive paraphernalia of club houses, servants and expensive grounds can never become a "popular" sport in the sense of being an amusement of the many. It must be classed with yachting, horse-racing, and kindred amusements whose foundations lie in a plethoric pocket book. As a result "golf literature" appeals to but a limited circle of readers.

We hear much of Christmas joys in town—of miles of glittering shop windows, of the gaiety of the streets and the places of amusement. It is all the creation of the paragraphers. Christmas—the real—the only—the genuine Christmas never comes to the dweller in towns. Christmas is a home festival. The Christmas spirit is not found where the extremes of wealth and poverty walk side by side. Confronted with the actual physical want and suffering of the masses the "good will to men" seems a phrase. In the great cities there is little of the real spirit of Christmas that seems to need the miles of snow-covered landscape and the great fires of a country home. One needs but to eat a Christmas dinner in an average table-de-hote restaurant to appreciate what the Christmas spirit means. There is dinner—good in its way—there are the crowds of people whose home is a "furnished room;" there are the Christmas greens in the window and the mistletoe over the door, the roast goose and plum pudding and the "Merry Christmas to all" at the head of the menu, but somehow Christmas is not to be caught in that way. It is only a poor makeshift for the genuine article. Christmas is within like most of the real joys of this life and it lies within. We are less truly ourselves away from our contact with Nature. We can not make a king with the robes of royalty and we can not make a Christmas with the trappings of the season.

The real genuine book lover has a wide field of interest in his chosen passion. One can be a book lover upon the most infinitesimal of incomes and taste all the pleasures of the real book worm. On the other hand the collector of rare editions, of brochures and of black letter must needs be a millionaire to ride his favorite hobby. Book binding is becoming quite a fad with women of leisure as its artistic possibilities are almost limitless. At the same time it offers a field of employment to women in search of a congenial and refined occupa-

tion. Book binding requires much patience and no slight outlay of time and money for its acquisition. From six months' to a year's time is required to master the details and an outlay of not less than \$500. Many women of wealth and leisure spend much time in binding their pet books and so giving an individual touch to their libraries. The method of "interlineation" is a favorite idea with book lovers. Unbound copies of some pet book are procured and the collector then devotes himself to gathering pictures to illustrate the book. These come from all sources, and etchings, wood engravings and copper plates are found side by side with the modern machine pictures. One bibliophile has 4000 pictures to illustrate a Life of Washington. A Life of Lincoln boasts 2000 illustrations collected from different sources. When this book is bound in a cover designed and made by the collector it makes an "edition-de-luxe" far beyond the most ambitious efforts of the publisher. A room in the Boston Public Library is set aside for books bearing upon Spanish history. Many of the most valuable books in this collection are the work of the "Castilian Club" in Boston. Nineteen books have been compiled from the researches of the Club. These are either type written or in library round hand, and scattered among the leaves are the etchings, engravings and photographs relating to the subject. These have been collected by the Club members.

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WE have made arrangements with one of the largest music houses of Boston to furnish our readers with ten pieces, full size, complete and unabridged Sheet Music for twenty-five cts. The quality of this sheet music is the very best. The composers' names are household words all over the continent. None but high-priced copyright pieces or the most popular reprints. It is printed on regular sheet-music paper, from new plates made from large, clear type—including colored titles—and is in every way first-class, and worthy of a place in your home.

LIST OF THE PIECES OFFERED AT THIS TIME.

PIANO OR ORGAN.	
165 American Liberty March	Cook
101 Ancient Abroad, March—Two Step	Cook
181 Auld Lang Syne, Variations	Durkee
37 Battle of Waterloo, Descriptive	Anderson
170 Beethoven's Famous Waltz, 4 hands	Strebbog
61 Bell of Coromandel, Potpourri	Strebbog
35 Black Hawk Waltzes	Wish
51 Bluebird Echo Polka	Morrison
18 Boston Commandery March	Carter
109 Bridal March from Lohengrin	Wagner
67 Bryant and Sewall March	Notes
133 Cadences and Scales in all Keys	Czerny
1 Catherine Waltzes	Stroh
145 Clayton (Adjutant) March—Two Step	Musid
47 Cleveland's March	Notes
81 Coming Home in Races Galop	Wheeler
11 Constance, Romance	Fin
33 Corn Flower Waltzes	Ostroff
41 Crack Four March	Ashley
71 Crystal Dew Waltz	Durkee
63 Dewey's Grand Triumphal March	Marcel
117 Echoing Trumpets March	Notes
121 Electric Light Galop	Durkee
91 Estella, Air de Ballet. Very fine.	Robinson
107 Ethel Polka	Simon
155 Evergreen Waltz	Stoddard
77 Fall Waltz	Leybach
65 Fall in the Starlight Waltz	Spindler
27 Fresh Life Waltz	Watson
49 Full of Ginger, March Galop	Nuttino
183 Golden Rain, Nocturne	Cloy
147 Grand Commandery March—Two Step	Schulze
53 Greeting of Spring, op. 21	Jessell
173 Hobson of the Merrimac Waltzes	Slack
139 Home, Sweet Home, Transcription	Rosas
17 Impassioned Dream Waltzes	Muller
153 Jenny Lind polka, Four hands	Gottschalk
157 John Home's Melodrama	Durkee
42 Leap Year Schottische	Turner
149 Little Girl's March	Herzli
55 Memorial Day March	Wely
80 Morning Dew, op. 18	Smith
61 Morning Star Waltz	Zahn
137 My Old Kentucky Home, Variations	Eichler
125 National Anthems of Eight Great Nations	Cook
175 Nightingale's Trill, op. 81	Blake
123 Old Folks at Home, Transcription	Kullak
171 Old Oaken Bucket, The, Variations	Blake
83 Overture Waltz	Spencer
9 Our Little Agnes, Waltz	Gregoire
24 Over the Waves Waltz	Rosas
79 Please Do Waltz	Durkee
167 Red, White and Blue Forever. March	Blake
143 Richmond March—two step	Staud
177 Rustling Leaves, Idylle	Schubert
30 Ruth, Esther and Marion Schottische	Lang
149 Salem Witches March—Two Step	Mirand
75 Scherzettino, op. 48	Guilmant
3 Schubert's Serenade, Transcription	Liszt
161 Silvery Waves, Variations	Wynona
169 Smith's (General) March	Martin
31 Song of the Voyager	Podereks
22 Souvenir March Song of 1888 R. T. Parade	Dow
95 Spirit Lake Waltz	Simons
151 Star of the West, Imitation of Nature	Koefoed
12 Storm, Mauretania	Brown
10 Sultan's Band March	Blake
29 Sweet Long Ago, Transcription	Arbuckle
103 Trifles' Grand March, op. 182	Wedel
57 Twilight Echoes, Song without words	Jessell
13 Under the Double Eagle March	Wagner
129 Venetian Waltz	Ludovic
26 Village Parade Quickstep	Allen
7 Visions of Light, Waltz	Cook
93 Waves of the Ocean March	Blake
8 Winsome Grace, A perfect gem.	Mendelsohn
8 Winsome Grace, Woodland Whispers Waltzes	Hove
119 Zephyr Waltz	Stanley

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SPECIAL OFFER To secure new trial subscriptions or extend old

DE COAXIN'EST MAN.

HUBBARD T. SMITH.

Moderato.

1. I'se dun gone an' promis' dis lit-tle brack han' To a coon named Tar Heel Jones;
 2. 'Twill take all de mon-ey I'se dun gone an' saved, For to buy dat man's troo-so;
 3. I knowz dat Tar is mighty fond of gals, But, shucks, I don't mind dat;

An' I knowz dat I'se gone and dun a
 But, deed, if I'se to mar-ry him I'se
 For I'se been kind-er fool-ish an' fir-

mighty fool-ish thing, For I feels it in mah bones, I do. But, Lawd a Mas-sy, hon-ey, what'sa la-dy gwine to do, When a man like Tar comes fool-in' aroun'; Dere's all mah frien's say he's low down; But Tar Heel Jones goes fool-in' a-roun' When

mighty fool-ish thing, For I feels it in mah bones, I do. But, Lawd a Mas-sy, hon-ey, what'sa la-dy gwine to do, When a man like Tar comes fool-in' aroun'; Dere's all mah frien's say he's low down; But Tar Heel Jones goes fool-in' a-roun' When

CHORUS.

no use try-in' for to get de best of him, He's de coax-in'-est man in town. He aint got money, an' he aint got style; He aint much much out-side his fas-ci-na-tin' smile. He's what's de use of talk-in', for he's honn't to have his way. He's de coax-in'-est man in town.

I has be-come de lit-tle blus-hin' bride Of de coax-in'-est man in town.

an-y-thing but handsom,' an' he wears cheap clo'es; But he sut-tin-ly is de coax-in'-est man I knows

after each verse. D.S.

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P. H. GILSON COMPANY, MUSIC TYPOGRAPHERS, BOSTON, U.S.A.

"COON" SONGS.

HOW MUSIC IS MADE POPULAR.

Interesting Facts About Modern Music.

"De Coaxin'est Man" published above is one of those very popular "coon" songs which delight the hearts of everybody and become wildly popular everywhere. It has always been known that the negro had as much music as any of the human race, and to his natural love of music we are indebted for many of the most popular pieces we sing. After the Civil War there were hundreds of beautiful songs culled from the slave days, which were full of melody but of a generally mournful cadence. As we got away from the strife of war the negro music became brighter and more catchy; and, recently, the new period of "coon" music in its catchy, breezy style has been made popular, largely by the efforts of that popular actress, May Irwin, who first grasped the possibilities of this class of music. Since her immense triumph the fad has spread and there are constantly growing lists of similar pieces, while their popularity remains unbounded.

Speaking of war days reminds COMFORT of the rapid advances that have taken place in the world since our Civil War. Almost everything has shot ahead in the wonderful race of progress more than in the preceding two centuries. When such songs as "My Old Kentucky Home," "The Mocking Bird," "Sweet Maggie May," etc., were first published, the regular price of sheet music was from 50 cents to \$1.00. Only a quarter of a century later the modern methods of COMFORT allow its readers to have the very best white sheet music, with full size words and score for a trifle more than the cost of postage.

"Ah!" says the unbeliever, "even such progress as that cannot have taken place in so short a time; there's some catch or cheat about it." Oh, no. It is exactly as we state and hundreds and thousands of unsolicited written testimonials have been received by the publishers. Miss Hilda Loeb, Morgan City, La., writes us: "Wonders will never cease. I have many a piece that has been advertised but have never been so well pleased as I was with your music, and if any of my friends want music, I will certainly let you know." "Words are not ade-

quate to express to you how much I like it. How can you afford to sell such large quantity and good quality for such a small amount. It is just as good as that for which I have paid 40, 50 and 60 cents. I shall buy music from no other dealer," writes S. E. Gibson, Henderson, Texas. "Think it equal in appearance and quality to more costly music. Kindly accept thanks for promptness," says W. J. Griese, 204 W. Maryland St., Evansville, Ind.

If the reader will look on another page of COMFORT he will find this great and modern music offer which has never before been equalled. In addition to this we have several new attractions which we are able to send this month as follows: No. 180. Far Away. A very popular song, the words by Miss M. Lindsay, and the music by Miss J. W. Bliss. No. 181. Variations for Piano on Auld Lang Syne, by G. W. Durkee, he who wrote the variations on Old Oaken Bucket, advertised as No. 171, being the most popular piece, without any exception, on the entire list, and of which 128,000 copies have already been sold. No. 182. Father Is Drinking Again. A temperance song, words and music by B. G. Bickmore. No. 183. Golden Rain, Nocturne, for Piano, by C. W. Cloy.

If you have not tried this plan of obtaining music do so now and call your music-loving friends' attention to this money-saving opportunity to get sheet music, and you can have any of the above numbers included in any list of ten pieces you may make up from the offer on opposite page.

Legends of the Crucifixion.

HERE are different opinions held as to the tree from which was made the cross upon which Jesus was crucified. Some authorities say the cedar, others, the olive, and others still say the cross was made of various different woods—the arms of one kind, the body of another, and the head piece of a third; but this last theory is hardly creditable, as it is not to be supposed that so much

pains would be taken with the instrument of death for a malefactor. Popular superstition says that it was the elder; and in Scotland people will not burn the wood of this tree, even if other wood is scarce and this plentiful. Some carry their superstitions so far as to take refuge under an elder during a thunder storm, averring that lightning will not strike an elder because it was once used to hold the body of the Saviour.

In the north of England the elder is planted in the form of a cross upon a newly made grave, and if it blooms there it is held to be a sure sign that the soul of the dead person is happy. Another legend says that the cross was made from the wood of the aspen, and that the leaves have trembled ever since on account of their guilt. Still another legend says that all the trees but the aspen shivered at the time of the crucifixion, and the aspen, because it did not do so then, has been doomed to quiver ever since.

The dwarf birch, in Scotland, is believed to have been stunted in growth because from it were made the rods with which Christ was scourged.

The Judas tree, or Red-bud, is a small tree having rose-colored blossoms. This tree flowers in the spring before leaving, and then it is pink with blossom, like the peach tree. It gets its name from the legend that it was the tree from which Judas hanged himself, and it is said to have at once flowered in the effort to hide itself from very shame at its disgrace, and the blossoms turned crimson from the same sense of shame.

The passion flower, a family of climbing plants, get their name from the fancied resemblance of the various parts of the flower to the different things used at the time of our Lord's passion and death. The nails, the crown of thorns, the five wounds, and even the hammer and the cross itself being found in some part of the blossom.

In trimming for Christmas the English use holly, bay, rosemary and laurel, but never mistletoe; partly because it was used by the old Druids, and, in some sections of the country, because it is believed to have been used for the true cross. Ivy is excluded because it was, in old times, sacred to Bacchus; Cypress, also, is sacred to funeral, and so must not be used at so joyful a time as Christmas.

New York has an orchestra of left handed fiddlers.

FOR WINTER USE.
 Kitty—"Oh, I say, Fan, have you saved any flocks over from the summer campaign?"
 Fannie—"Not a one. I guess I'll have to fall back on Charlie. I have been engaged to him for three years."

USEFUL TO ADVERTISERS.

Charles H. Fuller's Advertising Directory of Leading Newspapers and Magazines, 1898, is a complete and perfect ready-reference book for advertisers. The information it contains is so arranged that the size of the book is brought down to the proportions of the manual, and there seem to be no omissions of essential material on that account. The classification of the publications is made on the basis of their character, and the sub-classification is by states and territories. The glance of the table of contents shows the searcher instantly what he wants, and he turns to it easily. It does not purport to be a complete newspaper directory, but points to the leading periodicals of every description—daily newspapers, Sunday newspapers, weekly, semi-weekly, monthly, semi-monthly publications, religious papers, Sunday school papers, agricultural, juvenile, medical, sporting papers, all of them the leading ones in their spheres. The circulation and advertising rates of these are given with accuracy. There are many special heads, such as foreign language lists, 50 representative daily and 50 representative weekly papers, banner list of monthlies and semi-monthlies, etc. It is published by Charles H. Fuller's Advertising Agency, Chicago, Buffalo and New York.

A "tinker's dam" has nothing to do with swearing. It is merely the dam, or stoppage, made of flour and water, with which the tinker stops the gap he is mending until the tin or pewter he is using has cooled.

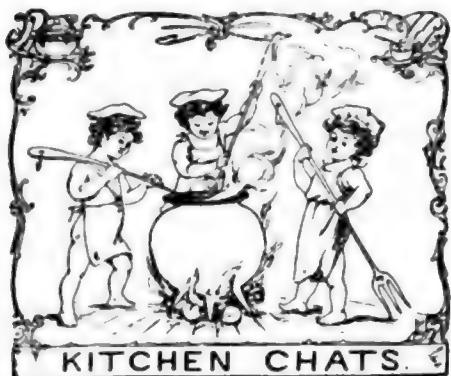
HEAD RESTS

for Chairs and Couches are all the rage. We have a few dozen beautifully outlined, and some stamped in gilt and oil colors which we are ready to give you as samples of our goods. They were manufactured to sell at 25c. each. We want you to have one or more, and will send one, all charges paid, safely done up in our immense catalogue for only 8 cents. Not more than three to one person. Write quick to TAPESTRY DEPARTMENT, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

A strange plant has been discovered in India which possesses strong magnetic qualities; a magnetic needle is affected by it at a distance of twenty feet, and if touched by the hand a strong shock is felt.

A POCKET LUXURY

Is a tortoise shell comb in a neat and fancy case, always handy and useful; good for men, women, school children and the soldiers. We will send one with our great catalogue of thousands of bargains for only six cents. Address, COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



CONDUCTED BY AUNT SARAH.

HERE is something on the market in the shape of condensed vegetables which will simplify the housewife's difficulties and save much thought on her part during the winter months when fresh vegetables are not to be obtained except at high prices, and one must depend upon the regular winter vegetables, which lose all attractiveness after a constant diet on them. Spinach comes in a small package of about five inches square, and which is said to contain one-half peck; this is of course condensed by a process which is said to be perfectly healthful and still retains all the flavor of the fresh spinach, and yet is condensed into this small compass, and will keep indefinitely; the cost of these packages is but ten cents each, and all that has to be done is to let the contents boil in the proper amount of water the length of time indicated in the directions which come with each package, and the result is fresh spinach in all seasons, and at a very low price. Other vegetables are treated in the same way—also soups, with a much better result, so it is said, than from the canned soups familiar to us all, as no liquid is contained in the package—water being added to the dry vegetables as the soup is to be used.

We have had inquiries regarding table decorations for everyday use—and we show here with a silver jardiniere which is useful, ornamental, strong and durable, and has another virtue, it is inexpensive. It is seven inches across the top, stands on three short legs, has a separate inside dish of metal with rings for lifting out, and yet costs but \$1.89. Of course plants of the kind for table decoration are short-lived, being of the fern species, and as they are in the center of the table all the time they of course get less light and sun than plants standing nearer the window, and so do not develop as fast; but it is very easy to replace a plant as it begins to grow yellow, and thus a variety is obtained; the small ferns cost very little. A cocoa palm is the best plant for a center plant, and then the small ferns or mosses may be set in under the palm branches, which grow very straight and thus leave the stem exposed. Care should be used in the watering of these plants; they need less water than is generally supposed, and every day or two the inside pan should be emptied of any water that may have run through. A very simple meal looks quite sumptuous when there is a fresh green centerpiece on the table, yet how few housewives realize this fact; they decorate the table with cut flowers for company, but



FOR THE DINING TABLE.

never think of the everyday greenery which is such a rest to tired eyes when kept in healthy condition.

One of our readers has asked us for a new recipe for cooking halibut; we know of no positively new way for cooking this delectable fish, but we have a recipe for cheese sauce to be served with baked halibut which is delicious to those who care for cheese.

BAKED HALIBUT.

Wash and wipe two pounds of halibut and put in a pan. Pour around it one-half cup milk and bake thirty-five minutes, basting often with the milk. When done, remove skin and pour over.

CHEESE SAUCE.

Melt one tablespoon butter, add one and one-half teaspoons cornstarch and pour on slowly three-fourths cup milk. Add one-half pound mild cheese cut fine and season with salt and pepper; when cheese melts add one egg beaten slightly.

For those who do not care for cheese, the following may be liked:

CREAM WINE SAUCE.

Melt four tablespoons butter; add four tablespoons flour and stir until slightly brown; then add two cups cream and three tablespoons sherry wine and salt and pepper to taste.

A dainty dessert after a heavy dinner is one made of lady fingers and whipped cream. Take

glass cups with handles, usually called punch glasses—and line each cup with lady fingers cut in halves, the round end coming near the top of the cup. Fill the center with whipped cream piled high, and when served, pass a decanter of sherry wine to each guest, to be poured over the whole. It is not the thing at all to pour over the wine before serving, as the cake soaks up the wine and the cream loses its freshness; then, too, each guest takes just what he likes, some little and some much—and of course some would prefer simply the cake and cream without the addition of the wine. These little glass cups are very convenient to have on hand, as ices, jellies, fruit puddings and various kinds of dessert may be served in them as well as punch, lemonade, etc.

COFFEE CUSTARDS.

Scald two cups of milk with two tablespoons ground coffee. Remove coffee and add the milk to three egg yolks slightly beaten, one-fourth cup sugar, one-eighth teaspoon salt and one-fourth teaspoon vanilla. Strain into custard cups, and bake in a pan of hot water until firm. Chill, remove from cups and cover with a meringue made of the whites of two eggs beaten until stiff, five tablespoons powdered sugar and one-fourth teaspoon vanilla.

POCKETS.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



All the inventions of the tailor (who is of artists the most inventive), I hold the *pocket* to be one of the most indispensable. Birds have their claw, ruminating beasts their first or antestomach, the monkey has his cheek, the opossum her pouch, and so necessary is some convenience of this kind for the human animal, that the savage, who cares not for clothing, makes for himself a pocket if he can. The Hindoo carries his snuff-box in his turban; some of the inhabitants of the Congo make a secret fob in their woolly *tonpet*, of which, as Labat says, the worst use they make is to carry poison in it. The Matotas, a long-haired race, who border upon the Caffres, form their locks into a sort of hollow cylinder, in which they bear along their little implements. The New Zealander is less ingenious; he makes a large opening in his ear, and carries his knife in it. The Ogres, those mighty heroes of the romances of bygone days, who were of course described as worse than savages, and whose ignorance and brutality were in proportion to their bulk, were said, upon the authority of tradition, when they had picked upon a stray traveler or two more than they required for supper, to lodge them in a hollow tooth as a place of security till breakfast-time; whence it may be inferred that they were not liable to toothache, and that they made no use of toothpicks. Ogres, savages, beasts, and birds, then, all require something to serve the purpose of a pocket. Thus much for the necessity of the thing. Touching its antiquity, much might be said; for it would not be difficult to show, with that little assistance from the auxiliaries *must*, and *have*, and *been*, that pockets were coeval with clothing. Moreover, Nature herself shows us the utility, the importance, nay, the indispensability of pockets.

There is but one organ which is common to all animals whatsoever. Some are without noses, some have no heads, others no tails; some neither the one nor the other; there are who have no brains; some no heart, others very bad ones; but all have a stomach—and what is a stomach but a live inside pocket?

Pockets are the long result of time and civilization. The Greeks knew nothing about them. The Latin word *pera*, borrowed directly from the Greek, is as near "pocket" as the classical race could attain to, and the Romans had not even the *pera* till they copied it from Greece.

The *pera*, which is often mentioned by Homer, was no proper pocket, but a leatheren scrip or bag hung from the shoulder. In such a scrip did Olympus store his broken meat when he was disguised as a beggar. David put five smooth stones in a scrip when he went to meet Goliath. A purse is nothing more than a small bag in which money is contained in the *pocket*, and in Turkey represents a sum of five hundred piasters. The Indian medicine-bags, called *midjigossan* in the Ojibbeway language, were made of the skins of various animals, such as the wildcat, bear, otter and snake; and all retained more or less the shape of these wild animals, as head and tail, and sometimes legs and feet were left on. The Indians imagine that a spirit or breath is inhaled from the bags, possessing the power to blow down and kill a person, as well as to restore him to life and strength again. The scrips of the disciples every one remembers in the New Testament. The Greek, like our Teutonic ancestors, had to carry a wallet, or make what use he might of the fold of the chiton which fell over the girdle. Herodotus speaks of the fold, or *Kolpos*, in this sense; and Theocritus, when the Alexandrian public would not buy his poems, complained that they held their hands tightly under their *Kolpos*, where, no doubt, they rattled their drachmas in a vulgar and irritating manner. To such resorts was pocketless man compelled, and he was obliged to make separate sheaths or cases for articles of common use. He did without pocket handkerchiefs. He carried a bag at his side with his money in it, like Isaac, the Jew, whose bag it will be remembered was snatched away by Prince John. So long was man pocketless that in an ancient glossary of English costume, the word "pocket" does not occur at all, though we find "pock" and "pouch." "With that he pulled a dial from his pock," says Shakespeare; and this pock was probably a wallet worn at the side, or from the shoulder.

The sporan, or pouch, is a distinguishing feature of the Highland costume; but its first adoption, in its present, peculiar and ornamental form, is equally involved in mystery. A wallet, or *dorlack*, carried on the right side,



A DAINTY DESSERT.

was worn as early as the fourteenth century, as we have evidence in the effigy of a Knight in the cathedral church of Iona or Ilcolmkill; and some such appendage to the girdle is of very early occurrence in the costume of most nations. The tasseled sporan is, however, more like the pouch of the North American Indians than the European gypsies or almoniere of the middle ages, and its position in front is an additional peculiarity. Five hundred years ago a great variety of costumes was worn contemporaneously in different parts of England.

The cotehardie, which was probably imported from Flanders, was a tight garment, buttoned in front down to the hips, with its tippets or long strips of cloth depending from the elbows, and was worn by noblemen and ladies. Both, too, had girdles and pouches, with daggers stuck through them. These pouches, or gypsies, were made of fine leather, embroidered with silk.

The pockets in front of the lady's cotehardie were rather for show than use.

A pocket looking-glass was the common companion of the fashionables of both sexes during the reign of Elizabeth. The ladies carried it either in their pockets or hanging at their sides, and sometimes it was inserted in the fan of ostrich or other feathers—one of the most elegant appendages to the costume of the time.

In the eighth number *Gray's Inn Journal* for 1752 is an advertisement of the sale by auction of the whole stock of a coquette leaving off trade, consisting of several valuable curiosities, etc., amongst which are mentioned "an elegant snuff-box, with a looking-glass within it, being a very good pocket-companion for a beauty." There were over thirty what are called in England, in Parliamentary language, pocket-boroughs, in which the influence of an individual or family is at least equal to, or often overpowers, that of the so-called constituency. Perhaps the best known pocket-borough in England is Newark, which will have a place in history as being the borough which first sent Mr. Gladstone to Parliament, at the instance of his and its patron, the Duke of Newcastle.

Every State in the American Union has a law against carrying concealed weapons, and yet, strange to say, every pair of trousers manufactured from Maine to California, and from the Lakes to the Mexican Gulf, has a pistol pocket. The word "pocket" is used in rural economy, and means a large sort of bag, in which hops are packed in order to be sold, being formed of a particular kind or quality of sacking. A pocket of wool is half a sack. The pocket usually contains twenty-five hundredweight of wool. In England, Pocket Sheriffs in law are nominated by the sole authority of the Crown.

Submarine Telephones.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

THE telephone for submarine use is a recent invention of Captain Louis Soroch, of Baltimore. During the exploration about the wreck of the battleship *Maine*, in Havana harbor, at least six of these telephones were brought into use there, and were of the utmost service to the divers. Work on a sunken ship is extremely dangerous at any time, and under any conditions, but by the use of these telephones the diver can call for help in an emergency, and hence many lives, which would otherwise have been lost, were saved by the prompt assistance thus furnished.

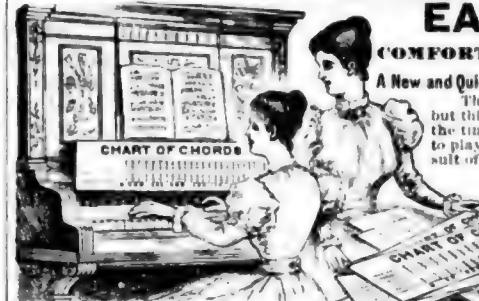
The phone consists of a headgear for both diver and attendant, or tender, as he is called. This is made of elastic rubber, and fits over the top of the head and under the chin. Over the left ear is the transmitter, while the right ear is protected by a small wooden pad which shuts out all sounds from it and prevents the pain that would result were the air allowed to press upon the ear. The submarine cable, which is waterproof, passes through the front of the helmet by means of a stuffing box, and sound is so easily transmitted that the tender can readily hear anything above a whisper said by the diver.

The tender is not obliged to use his hands about the telephone and therefore has them free for handling the ropes connected with the diver under his care.

By the use of these telephones the diver can give immediate notice to his tender of any accident, fall or any other peril that may befall him, he can order anything he may need to be sent down to him, or he may have connection made with another diver, working at some distance from him, and can thus communicate readily with him on the work in hand.

The advantage to the diver and to the world of this submarine telephone cannot be overestimated. One has only to read accounts of the frightful accidents happening to divers while pursuing their dangerous occupation—accidents which might have been averted, or, at least, remedied could the diver have had the use of one of these instruments—to realize the inestimable value of this invention.

When silver is badly tarnished rub with a paste made of silicon and alcohol.



You Learn in a Moment
What It Takes a Teacher
Months to Explain
to You.

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Stamped Satin,
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block is a nose and grace design,
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to introduce our new novelties in Pure Aluminum,
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cure. Sample mailed free to any sufferer. F. G. KINSEY, R. R.
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For lady or gent, a heavy plated
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once, when sold send us the money
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Dollars for Pennies.
"THE LIGHT THAT WON'T GO OUT."
Every family in America is ready to buy "The light that sells
on sight" the wonderful new invention called ARC-LIGHT.
It burns a whole year without trimming. It kills a candle,
dinner, kerosene, beats gas, and almost equals electricity or sun
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It is 20 per cent. of oil. It's clear, white and brilliant. It's
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The ARC-LIGHT is something new. All
need it, all buy it, all
need it. To show it
is burning, that an ARC-LIGHT
burns 12 hours, giving
the last hour the same per-
fect, brilliant light as
agents.

The same kind of carbon
that gives the electric light
its brilliancy is woven into
the ARC-LIGHT by a patent
process. We hold affidav-
it that an ARC-LIGHT
burns 12 hours, giving
the last hour the same per-
fect, brilliant light as
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A single lamp
in New England,
who bought
over 35,000
wicks.
The ARC-LIGHT
beats all others.
It sells
our lamps,
and turns night
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saloon, hall, church,
car, etc., will
make arrangements with
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offer for 60 days the following
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Wicks, 5-8 inch wide—the size
by mail, sample 25 cents per
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Morse & Co., the cash, 15 per cent. off. Send
our sample dozen, giving width desired, and see how they go. We
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Address COMFORT, Box 959, Augusta, Maine.

EASY MUSIC CHEAP.

COMFORT'S NEW CHART of CHORDS for the PIANO.
A New and Quick Method of Learning to Play the Piano or Organ Without a Teacher.

There have been many so called easy methods and charts devised
but this is the latest and best. It is intended for those who have not
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to play the piano or organ at sight. This chart is the practical re-
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charts are valuable to the advanced musician
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every major and minor chord used in music. It
is the most comprehensive and simplest chart
ever published, and is endorsed by teachers and
musicians everywhere.

To introduce "COMFORT'S CHART" in every
home, we will send **free** with each chart the
"GIANT ALBUM OF SONGS," containing 164
Songs with words and music, including
the great hits, "I Won't Be a Nun," and
"The Mountain Maid's Invitation." To
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introduce "COMFORT'S CHART" in every
home, we will send **free** with each chart the
"GIANT ALBUM OF SONGS," containing 164
Songs with words and

Woman as the Home Builder.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

FOR years it has been an unsolved mystery to me why the planning and designing of houses has been left so entirely to the sterner sex. That they should build them is a proper thing, since their superior strength is needed for the heavy work required; and that they should be the architects of all business buildings is also to be expected, since it is principally they who are to occupy them and make use of their conveniences or inconveniences. But for the home, where the wife—the mother—is to reign supreme, a woman should, without question, be the sole architect. Man seldom understands the needs of womankind, and, if he is aware of them, he is quite as apt to call them fancies or woman's notions and ignore them, as to attempt to cater to them.

Merion Hall, at Bryn Mawr College is a striking example of this. When Dr. Rhodes, the first President of the College, was building this hall he refused to allow any closets to be made in the sleeping rooms of the students. He was urged to reconsider his decision, and was told that the young ladies must have a place to keep their clothing.

"Nonsense!" was his reply. "Girls don't come here to dress. They come to study. One gown to wear and another for a change in case of an accident to the first in all they need, and I'll have a hook put up to hold the second gown."

So it has come about that every sleeping room at Merion is cumbered with a wardrobe which not only fills up the small apartment but was an additional expense to the college.

But "times change," and people are beginning to realize that those who are to have the direction and management of a house are the proper ones, in nearly all cases, to plan them; and to give some description of a house designed and superintended in its building by a boy friend of mine is the object of this sketch. To be absolutely correct in my description I should say that this lady and her husband planned the house together; for every smallest detail of the home that was to be theirs was talked over and arranged between them on the long winter evenings preceding its erection; but the actual drawing of the plans and the superintending of their carrying out were the work of the wife.

The house is a three-story brick, the nucleus of a coming block, and is set upon the highest land in the city, where sun and air are to be had in perfection. It faces the north, and wide verandas, on every floor, extend the whole length of the house on the southern side. The two lower ones are, of course, roofed over by the floor of the one above, while the upper one has a roof of its own. Strong iron railings protect these verandas in front, while windows, reaching from floor to ceiling, give access to them from the various rooms. Here the little children of the family play summer and winter; here the beds are brought out on the hot nights of a Washington summer, and the family sleep in the open air, unmindful of the heat within the house.

In the front basement, which is on a level with the street, is an arched entrance for wheels, terminating in a room devoted especially to their use. Here is to be found every convenience for cleaning and otherwise caring for them.

The floors of this woman's house are of hard wood, waxed and polished to a nicely, and wiped every day with a dry flannel cloth. Even the closet floors receive equal care; a low shelf, raised only a few inches from the floor, holds the boots and shoes of the family, and nothing is allowed to cumber the closet floor, to need moving about when it is wiped.

In the nursery, which is on the southern side of the house, is a set of low shelves where the playthings of the children are kept, and they are taught to pick up their toys and replace them on these shelves when they are through using them. A most delightful part of the day's occupation to these children is to help mamma to clear up this room and brush up the floor just before the time that papa is expected home to dinner. The closet in this room is devoted largely to sewing materials, as this mother makes of the nursery her sewing room, and so keeps herself with her little ones as much as possible. The closet is about eight feet deep by four feet in width, and the whole of one of the long sides is occupied by shelves, drawers and pigeonholes. The pigeonholes, two tiers of them, are used for patterns, pieces, and little garments which the children have outgrown, and which are to be given away. Below these are two wide, long shelves, devoted to work of various kinds, garments to be mended, and garments in daily use by the children. Still lower are deep drawers, devoted to materials for garments and to the little partly-made dresses. Above all are boxes holding the necessary "findings"—hooks and eyes, whalebones, spare needles and spools of cotton, and the thousand and one articles which are a necessity to the seamstress, but which so cumber up a workbasket when kept "lying around."

Dust shoots leading to the basement have openings in every room in the house, so there is no excuse for dirt, torn papers or waste baskets. A shoot for soiled clothes also extends from the third floor to the basement, with openings on each floor. The house is heated by hot water, and the gas is lighted by electricity, so no matches are allowed about the house within reach of childish fingers. Nearly every room has its open fireplace, and that in the front hall, which is the one most frequently used, has a dump in its floor through which the ashes are dropped into a great receptacle for them in the cellar at the base of the chimney. This dump removes the necessity of handling the ashes and of carrying them through the house, and thus saves much dust and dirt in the rooms. The reservoir for ashes in the cellar is so large that it requires to be emptied only once a year.

The front hall, with its open fireplace, its couches piled with pillows, its brilliant light

and its comfortable chairs is a favorite sitting place in the evenings after the little ones are in bed. An arched passageway separates it from the front door, and shields its occupants from all draughts from the door.

In the kitchen the same careful thought and planning have been exercised. A tightly fitting swing door without a latch connects it with the dining-room. A gas range is used for cooking, thus doing away with the dust, labor and ashes of a coal burner. A table for use in preparing vegetables, rolling pastry or kneading bread stands in one corner. This table has a top of strong, heavy glass, such as is used for pavements over basements, and is almost absolutely unbreakable. Its chief advantage lies, however, in the fact that it is so easily kept clean. Of course it is perfectly impervious to grease or stains, and there are no cracks in its surface to furnish a hold for "germs." In the pantry, adjoining the kitchen, is another glass shelf for use in cutting bread and cake, but as this is made of plate glass it is not so strong as the one in the kitchen. In the pantry, also, are two lifts or elevators, on which any desired article from a glass of water to a basket of wood can be sent anywhere up and down the house. The smaller one of the two is principally used for the transmission of food to and from the refrigerator in the basement.

These are only a few of the many devices for the health, comfort and saving of steps in this admirably planned house; and all this was not only largely designed by a woman but was also in a great measure carried out by her. Her husband was away on business during most of the time that the house was being built, and upon the wife devolved most of the responsibility of overseeing and directing the workmen.

Narrow Gauge Railroads of the Oil Fields.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

NEAR the necessities, as well as one of the most picturesque features of the northern oil fields, during the time of their greatest activity, were the narrow gauge railroads. They interested the country in every direction, and were built in preference to the standard gauge railroad on account of the mountainous condition of the country which they were forced to traverse, the grade being in some places two hundred and sixty-five feet to the mile. No filling in was done; all the ravines and gullies were bridged by hemlock trestle work, and the space between the ties was ballasted by dirt dug out of the ditch.

The traffic and trade over these roads in Pennsylvania and neighboring oil districts during the boom of the oil wells was simply enormous. For instance, the Alleghany Central's freight receipts during the first thirty days after the completion of the road amounted to twelve thousand dollars, and that was before a station was built. A box car was utilized for both ticket and freight office, and the telegraphic instrument was screwed to a dry-goods box in one corner of the car. The passenger traffic equaled the freight. Nine passenger trains and five freight trains were run over the road every day. At this time Richburg was a town of eight thousand inhabitants, and boasted of a morning and an evening paper, two banks, a hundred stores, hotels, a dozen doctors, as many lawyers, nearly a hundred public bars, dance houses, and everything else necessary for first-class boom city in the oil country. One of the lawyers there earned three thousand dollars in fees during the first three months of his residence in Richburg.

As soon as the oil boom began to wane the narrow gauge roads also diminished in profits. Both freights and passengers fell away rapidly, and now, of all the moving railroad life of that time hardly a trace remains. Richburg has scarcely four hundred inhabitants, and the Alleghany Central, the last bit remaining of the narrow gauge railroads in this region, is merged in the New York Central, and that branch of it running into Richburg has entirely disappeared. Richburg is now connected with the outside world only by stage line.

Of the other railroads used by the oil companies, some have been sold, torn up, and their material transported to other railroads, and some have been transformed into ordinary standard gauge railroads.

Many of these roads were run through the midst of farms, and the land on which they were built was purchased of the owners at fancy prices. When the roads were demolished the land was reclaimed and cultivated by its original possessor, and all traces of its public use have been thereby obliterated.

One of the queerest railroads ever built in the oil regions, or, indeed, anywhere else, was the Peg Leg railroad. This was a single railroad, about five miles in length, and ran from Bradford to Derrick City. Oak spikes were driven into the ground ten feet apart, on the top of these heavy timber was bolted, and on this the rail was spiked and fish-plated. Guard rails were placed on each side of the spike, about three feet from the top. The cars rested on two wheels, one at each end of the car, and hung from the rail by these, one on each side of the rail, like saddle-bags.

The engine was as odd as the cars or the road, being placed on the road somewhat after the same fashion as the cars, and looking, as the Irishman said, "like a pair of boots on a clothesline, shure!"

This road was completed in January, 1878. The roadbed was almost entirely straight, having very few curves, but the road and equipments cost forty-six thousand dollars—one car alone costing three thousand dollars. From the first there was much trouble with the engines, and many were the breakdowns. At last, only a year from the time the road was put in operation, while making trial of a new kind of engine, the boiler blew up, killing and mutilating many of the men on board. This finished its career, for, being of so abnormal a build, the road was feared and disliked by the train hands, and after this serious accident

none could be found willing to work upon it. It was therefore never repaired, and was soon after disposed of at a sheriff's sale for a small sum. The rails were stripped off, and the famous Peg Leg railroad became a thing of the past.

An Immense Wine Bottle.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

NIMMEGSETTANK, holding five hundred thousand gallons has recently been built on the banks of the Russian river near Asti, California. It is, like the ancient and renowned Heidelberg tun, intended for the storage of the grape juice when first expressed from the grape, but it far exceeds in size that venerable vat, which held only fifty thousand gallons. London has tanks holding one hundred thousand gallons of wine each, San Francisco boasts one holding one hundred and fifty gallons, and Merced can pour into hers two hundred thousand gallons, but they are all far behind the capacity of Asti's enormous subterranean lake, or bottle, as it might properly be called, for it is completely glazed within.

The rocky valley of the Russian river has been utilized for the walls of this tank, for an excavation has been made in the solid rock of the proper size for the reservoir. Next a wall of concrete, two feet in thickness, was put over the floor and sides, the cover being also lined with concrete. A lining of pure cement was put over this, and the whole glazed until it was as smooth and impermeable as glass. The cover was fitted on, and three feet of earth heaped above it in which grass seed was sown, and the whole thing shows nothing to the outside world but a huge mound of earth. A man-hole, three feet in diameter, admits a workman to the interior when necessary for cleansing or other purposes.

The grape juice is pumped into the tank through two four-inch pipes, and the wine, when properly fermented, is run off through six-inch pipes which communicate with the twenty-five gallon wooden tanks in which the wine is aged before being barreled and shipped. This immense wine cask is one hundred and four feet long, thirty-four feet wide and twenty-four feet high. It is buried in the ground in order to maintain a cool, even temperature for its contents during the period of fermentation; and it is thought, too, that the mingling of so large a number of gallons of the grape juice will give a better flavor to the wine. The value of the wine contained in it when full is reckoned at one hundred thousand dollars.

Electricity vs. Horses.

HERE are arguments for and against the use of horses for street cars. The poor horse had a hard time drawing heavily loaded cars up hill or on slippery roads, and it is not nearly so distressing to watch the cars glide along by electricity as it was to see the over-worked horse tugging at a big load.

But electricity as a motive power has made havoc with the sale of horses and the raising of hay and grain for the market. It is said that electric railways have displaced about two hundred seventy-five thousand horses already. That number of horses would require about one hundred twenty-five thousand bushels of corn or oats a day. The decrease in the demand for these grains seriously affects the farmer, as it amounts to forty-five million bushels a year. Furthermore, this means a great loss to railroad traffic, as that amount of grain would require about sixty-two thousand five hundred cars a year for shipment.

Ladies.—Send to Mrs. E. Wales, Toledo, O., for free package of Clover Blossom. Cures all female diseases.

LADIES. Electricity cures all ills. A foot battery free. Particulars of Tioga Specialty Co., Phila., Pa.

THE POOR MAN'S CHANCE to get a good start in life, and become independent. Address with stamp, BOX 305, East Palestine, Ohio.

A WONDERFUL MUSIC OFFER.

In order to secure subscribers and introduce our popular high grade sheet music into every home, we will send you on sale a supply free. You only have to make six sales and the watch will be yours. What we send you will be full size, complete and unbroken. \$10.00 value. Quality is the very best. The composers names are household words all over the continent. This sheet music is equal to any published. Being printed in million lots we can afford to have you sell it at a loss. The best and most popular pieces at marvellously unbroken prices of low prices. Some pieces much less than 50¢ a copy. We make money on future sales and now give you this elegant Watch free for your slight trouble. All we ask for protection is for you to send us a deposit to help pay subscription and mailing expenses on first reported lot of music. We will then deduct the amount you hold back this 15¢, as we pay all packing, mailing and express charges ourselves. All you do is to collect the required amount of money for music sent you and remit to us. We then send you the watch entirely free. The watch is guaranteed and warranted to satisfy you. Don't fail to enclose the 15¢ deposit and you will get your assured lot of sheet music by return mail. A. L. Lane, LANE MUSIC CO., Box C, Augusta, Maine.

Quick-Edge will sharpen the dullest Razor in two minutes and give it a fine smooth cutting edge. If Quick-Edge is used your razor will always be sharp and never need honing. Old razors get as new, and is warranted not to injure the skin. Price is the least. Don't pay 25 cents to have your razor honed when a cake of Quick-Edge will keep it in perfect order for years.

Quick-Edge will put a fine smooth cutting razor edge on any tool in one-tenth the time it takes to sharpen it in any other way. Razors and all edge tools will hold their edge three times as long, and cut better. Why? Because Quick-Edge that will cut well is very well. Every man who shaves needs Quick-Edge, every family, every shop, and every factory has some edge tools that need Quick-Edge. Any one can use it successfully, and full directions come with every cake. The price is 15 cents a cake. Agents can sell it to almost every man, and nearly every house. If you sell 100 cakes a day, your profit is \$15. Many agents are doing as well. If you send us an order, a dozen or a gross and try the business, if you do not like it, we will refund your money and the luxury of having a razor, a knife or other edge tool always in order, sharp and ready for use.

Price: One cake, 15¢; crimped; one gross cakes, \$6.00 by express. Address, GOLDEN MOMENTS, Augusta, Maine.

PROVERBS WHICH ARE "COMFORTING."

Chickens should not be counted before they are hatched.

Dinners cannot be long where dainties are wanting.

He who depends on another dines ill and sups worse.

It is foolish to quarrel with one's bread and butter.

A young man loves meat that an old man dislikes.

Better lose a supper than have a hundred doctors.

Dry bread at home is better than roast meat abroad.

No one knows what's in a pie till the lid is off.

Better have some of a pudding than none of a pie.

He who has enough spice may season his meat as he likes.

Oysters are best in months that have an "R" in them.

To frighten a fowl is not the way to catch it.

The proof of the pudding is in the eating.

Children are certain cares, but uncertain comforts.

The father is the guest that best becomes a table.

On St. Valentine's day a good goose should lay.

Winter finds out what summer has laid up.

A sooty chimney costs many a beefsteak.

What is done well enough is done quick enough.

A cracked plate may last as long as a sound one.

Little sticks kindle a fire, great ones put it out.

Time is the most precious of all possessions.

Save while you may for age and want.

They must hunger in frost who will not work in heat.

He who serves well need not fear to ask his wages.

The poor man fasts because he has no meat.

The rich man fasts because he will not eat.

Eating and drinking should not keep men from thinking.

Men seldom repent of eating too little.

A husband's wrath spoils the best broth.

A wife's art is displayed in a table well laid.

Be not the first by whom the new is tried.

Be not the last to cast the old aside.

A blind man should not judge of colors.

A bad servant will never make a good master.

None are so good as they ought to be.

None are so bad as they are said to be.

It is said that sulphur worn in the shoes is a sure preventive against yellow fever. It is also said that persons who work in match factories are never attacked by gripe. Sulphur worn in the shoes is also said to be a cure for rheumatism.

There is a cat that goes hunting at Hoisington, Kan. It makes its home in the roundhouse, where a railroad man placed it to get warm one day when he found it half frozen in the street. The man made a practice of shooting birds for it, and now the cat will follow for a mile or more any man who carries a gun, and at the sound of a shot will run for the bird.

Housewives in Norway and Sweden have started a scheme to encourage servants to remain in their places. Mistresses pay into a general fund whatever they can afford for every servant that has remained with them for 12 months. The money is registered in the servant's name, so that when age overtakes her, and she can no longer work, she has a comfortable annuity to fall back on.

Silverware Premiums.

We have a fine line of Triple Plate Silver Cake Baskets, Butter Dishes, etc., which we are offering as Holiday presents to club raisers for "COMFORT."

The Cake Baskets which we illustrate on page 23, are giving great satisfaction. We have just secured a new and fresh lot of these goods and can now supply any quantity as long as they last. It makes no difference what part of the country they go it is the same story of delight as you will see by sample testimonials.

A lady in Burlington, Montana, Lizzie Lander by name, says she was much pleased with her Cake Basket which arrived safely November 15th and was going to send for more goods at once.

Quite Near New York City.

Mrs. H. Aherson, of Allendale, N. J., writes November 13th, that the Silver Cake Basket we sent her was a beauty. She was so much pleased with it that she is getting up a club for the Premium Butter Dish.

Any one in need of Holiday Presents can

Uncle Sam's Soldiers at Home.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



ROURKELY at 5.15 each morning the clear, resonant tones of the bugle may be heard, ringing out first call and a few minutes later, as old Sol rises from his bed among the hills, the deep boom of the morning gun announces to all for miles around that another day's duty has begun. After "Gun Fire" comes "Reveille" which is played by the buglers in unison and then "Assembly" which means that every man must be in line in front of his company quarters to answer the first morning roll call. Fifteen minutes are consumed in the above. Roll call over, the men retire to their quarters and perform their morning ablutions. Every window in the squad-room is thrown open; every bed and blanket is folded in uniformity; each man sweeps under his own individual bed, the room orderly sweeps down the center of the room and in a few minutes, the squad-room is as bright and shining as the beautiful clear morning itself, and Uncle Sam's Fighters are ready to commence an attack on the morning meal.

At six o'clock comes the welcome "Mess Call," the companies "fall in," are marched by the senior noncommissioned officer present to the Mess Hall, march to their own respective tables without confusion, the command "Be seated" is given, and without further parley, charge with appetites, a brigade strong upon the viands prepared for them. Oatmeal, corn beef hash, stewed tomatoes, bread and butter and good strong coffee, compose the breakfast menu, and is a fair sample of the usual morning meal.

Breakfast over, the men return to their quarters. At 6.30 first call for drill is sounded, and assembly at 7 o'clock sharp. The first drill is always calisthenic or "setting up" exercises and the men go through them with a vigor that speaks well for their love of physical training and athletics. Sometimes this drill is varied by a run round the post, or athletic exercises in the spacious gymnasium. These variations are hugely appreciated by the men. After 30 minutes of vigorous work "Recall" is sounded and the men return to their quarters perspiring and ready for rest.

In few minutes, one will observe some of the men rise from their bunks, as they call them, delve into a large brown canvas bag, called a barracks bag, hung behind their cot, and procuring therefrom butter-sticks, burnishing chain, brushes and other articles used in the soldier's cleaning kit, go to work burnishing, shining and cleaning their accoutrements, clothes and equipments, until they absolutely sparkle with the high polish produced.

These men are those whose names are on the detail for guard that day, and they have been polished and burnished so that they may be able to pass the critical eye of the inspecting officer at guard mount. Every man in the Post takes an interest in the mounting of the guard, for each company vies with the other in the turning out the cleanest and most creditable detail.

First call for "Guardmount" is sounded at 8.15, a moment or two later the details may be seen issuing from their quarters, shining from head to foot, in their immaculate cleanliness, and careful not to brush against anything that would leave the most minute speck of dirt upon them.

Every eye in the Post is upon them, and that they realize it, may be seen by the proud manner in which each detail marches down the Main Parade, where they can be ready to "Fall in" when "Assembly" sounds.

Sharp at 9 o'clock the trumpeter sounds the "Assembly," the band strikes up a lively march and the details are marched to the parade ground, where the Serg't Major forms the guard and turns it over to the Post Adjutant who inspects them, the band playing an air or two while the inspection takes place.

After the guard has been inspected, the Adjutant picks out the cleanest man, for the Commanding Officer's orderly, which is the most desirable position on the guard, and is therefore greatly sought after, and marches the Guard in Review and then to the Guard House, where the old Guard, who have been on duty the preceding twenty-four hours is relieved by the members of the new Guard.

Immediately after Guardmount the fine Regimental Band proceeds to the band stand and for over an hour strains of sweet music delight the ear.

At 10.30 the men again assemble for drill, this time by battalion or regiment, and an interested visitor can watch them practicing every movement in the tactics, to the evident disadvantage of an imaginary enemy, the corresponding satisfaction of the officers, and the great bewilderment of the uninitiated visitor.

Regimental or Battalion drills generally take place on some large open field just outside the Post. When the recall from drill sends its welcome notes across the fields, it is indeed welcome, for panting and perspiring under the "Heavy Marching Order" load in which these drills are sometimes performed, every man, officer and private is glad of the opportunity to rest.

Stripped to the waist the men snatch hasty rest until dinner call is sounded and then proceed, as they did for breakfast, to the mess hall where they partake of the following meal: Tomato soup, roast beef, potatoes, stewed turnips, boiled beans, bread pudding, bread and coffee.

After dinner, those men not on duty either retire to their quarters for a siesta, or go for a long ramble through the picturesque country surrounding the Fort. Those men who have not served one enlistment (three years), and have not graduated from the public school previous to enlistment are compelled to attend the Post school from one to four P. M., where an excellent corps of teachers is maintained, and where any soldier with more than ordinary ambition, can secure all the advantages of a first-class educational institution.

The day is nearly over, but the soldier's work is not yet entirely completed. Promptly at 5.45 P. M. First Call again sounds, the men re-commence their polishing, and don their dresscoats, "Straight Jackets," as they term

the abominably tight things, for "Dress Parade," which is the ceremony par excellence of the day.

At Regimental Dress Parade the officer commanding the Post takes charge, the companies are formed into battalions and from that into regimental front, the band takes position on the right of the line, the commanding officer receives the battalion and company officers, puts the regiment through the manual of arms and brings them to "Parade Rest." At this moment the evening gun is fired, the buglers of the Regiment sound "Retreat," and the regimental colors are hauled down while the band plays the "Star Spangled Banner."

The companies are then marched past in review after which they are dismissed and with the exception of the members of the Guard and some others on special duty, the soldier's work for the day is done.

Dances in the mess hall, or parties in the homes of some of the married men, the spacious reading rooms in the Post Library, all kinds of athletic games, band concerts, and many other diversions aid in passing away the long hours of the evening until "Taps," which sounds at 11 P. M., at which time all soldiers not away on pass must be in the barracks.

Altogether, the soldier's life is by no means either idle or monotonous. Interested in all questions of the day, a reader of the papers, an ardent lover of sports, he finds plenty with his regular duties to occupy his time, and his duties are no sinecure, for besides doing guard for twenty-four hours once every ten or twelve days, he must take his turn at room orderly, during which time he is responsible for the cleanliness and order of his squad-room; as kitchen police or cook's assistant; waiter in the mess hall and in general or other fatigues. The latter means he must work for one whole day each week or so in aid to keep the post which he lives in—to use a witty officer's expression, "A place of beauty and glory forever."

Sunflowers.

THE sunflower has never been looked upon as a very desirable flower to cultivate, but its uses are coming to be known more generally, and it may not be many years before it will be largely cultivated by farmers or by those who have a little land. There is no plant that grows so vigorously and rapidly, and has such an enormous yield of seed as well as of leaves and stock, all of which can be used. The plant is hardy as well and will yield fifty bushels of seed to the acre. This will give fifty gallons of oil worth one dollar a gallon. The seeds are especially good as food for fowls, and when mixed with grain, farm animals like them. The stalks make good fuel. The Orientals mix dried sunflower leaves with their tobacco, and from the flowers make a yellow dye. The flowers also contain a good deal of honey and wax, and so would be a valuable aid to bee-raising.

Modern Cave Dwellers.

THERE is an island, or rock in Behring straits, 30 miles off the shores of Alaska at Port Clarence, inhabited by about two hundred cave dwellers. The village presents a most curious appearance, their caves being built over and under and to the right and left, closely nestled against a cliff. These curious people live on seal and walrus meat, and whale blubber.

ANY WOMAN MAY BE BEAUTIFUL if she will read the Ladies' Guide to Beauty with its wealth of simple rules and recipes for attaining great beauty. Written by a lady of the Court of France and now published for the benefit of every woman who wishes to be beautiful. We will send a copy free to every lady who will send us six cents to pay for a trial three months' subscription and postage. The greatest common-sense adviser ever given to ladies. SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

"Old Glory," as known to-day—that is, with the thirteen red and white stripes representing the thirteen original states, and a white star on a blue ground for each present state,—was first officially declared on June 14, 1877.

SENT FREE TO MEN



Free trial packages of a most remarkable remedy for sexual weakness are being distributed by the State Medical Institute. They cured so many men who had battled for years against the mental and physical suffering of lost manhood that the Institute has decided to distribute free trial packages to all who write. It is a home treatment and all men who suffer with any form of sexual weakness resulting from youthful folly, premature marriage, of strength and memory, weak back or varicose veins, can now cure themselves effectually.

The remedy has a peculiarly grateful effect of warmth and seems to act direct to the desired location, giving strength and development just where it is needed. It cures all the ills and troubles that comes from years of misuse of the natural functions and has been an absolute success in all cases. A request to the State Medical Institute, 585 First National Bank Building, Ft. Wayne, Ind., asking that you send one of their free trial packages, will bring you the best information of the power of reaching that great class of men who are unable to let it home to be treated, and the free trial packages will enable you to see how easy it is to be cured when the proper remedies are employed. The Institute makes no restrictions. Any man who writes will be sent a sample receipt care of a plain package so that its recipient need have no fear of embarrassment or publicity. Readers are requested to write without delay.

WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE

Between our cabinet and other makes? These cuts speak plainer than words. Our New 1900 style Quaker Folding Vapor Bath Cabinet has a Door, a self-supporting steel frame, galvanized, covering of antiseptic, hygienic cloth, rubber lined. Cabinet does not rest on the shoulders, nor pull over your head. No woodwork to wrap up or nail. Cabinet is made of Folded Iron, thick, 15 in. wide, 16 in. long, weighs only 5 lbs. Patented. \$36.000 acid. Recommended by *Health Physician* for bathing purposes. It opens the pores, sweat out the poisons, makes you clean, strong, vigorous and healthy. Cures bad cold with one bath. Cures rheumatism, laryngeal, insomnia, obesity, all blood skin, nerve and kidney diseases. Immediate Relief. Guaranteed in Warrant. Cabinet, Frame, Stove, Furnaces and Directions sent anywhere upon receipt of \$5.00. Face Steaming attachment, \$1.00 extra. Order today. You won't be disappointed. It's guaranteed as represented, or money refunded. It's guaranteed as represented, or money refunded.

Agents wanted, men and women. \$100.00 a month and expenses. Address, F. H. WORLD MANUFACTURING CO., Cincinnati, O.

MACARONI.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

ACARONI is an Italian invention, and, although imitated in other countries, notably in France and England, has never yet been produced so successfully anywhere else. It is made from wheat flour, and the wheat raised in Southern Europe is said to possess a greater amount of gluten than that of other countries, and is therefore better adapted to the manufacture of macaroni.

The wheat, after being washed in mountain streams is ground between mill-stones and then sifted five separate times; the last sifting giving the finest and most delicate flour that can be made, and which is called *semola*. This last sifting, or *semola*, is used for the manufacture of the macaroni of commerce. This flour is placed in a trough lined with iron and enough boiling water is mixed with it for kneading purposes.

The kneading is done by machinery, two men being required to propel the millstone which does the work, while a third man stands by to replace the dough under the millstone as it is driven out by the weight upon it. Sometimes the kneading is done by means of a wooden pole attached to a post fixed in the ground and worked up and down as a lever, under one end of which the paste is placed. Still another and less agreeable method is employed for the cheaper grades of macaroni intended for home consumption; the dough being kneaded by the bare feet of men and boys. This method, however, is never employed in the manufactories where the article is prepared for export.

After being sufficiently kneaded the dough is placed in an iron cylinder having holes in the bottom through which the paste is forced by pressure, a workman cutting off the pieces of the desired length as they come through the holes. To make the pieces hollow a wire extends down through the round hole in the bottom of the cylinder. Cylinders with different sized holes in their bottom are used for making the different grades of the article—the largest size being known as *macaroni*, the next as *vermicelli* (little worms), and the smallest as *fedelini*.

The dough is slightly baked while passing through the cylinders, and is afterwards placed on canes or horizontal poles to dry thoroughly. It requires about twenty minutes to knead the dough, and from two to four hours to dry it, according to the state of the atmosphere. It is carefully watched during this process, to prevent its drying too rapidly, as, if the outer surface became dry before the inside, the macaroni would be brittle. It is then placed in a damp cellar for twenty-four hours "to rest."

After being taken from the cellar it is exposed to the sun for a day, and then wrapped in paper and packed in boxes.



ASTROLOGY tells all. Life Horoscope, 20c. Send date of birth and sex. Prof. Edison, C. Binghamton, N. Y.

Rubber Goods of every description. Catalog free. Edwin Shaefer & Co., Toledo, O.

Rubber Goods price list sent sealed on application. Home Medical Co., Box 278, Rochester, N. Y.

BED WETTING CURED. TRIAL FREE. Mr. R. HOWAN, Milwaukee, Wisc.

LADIES wanted everywhere to mail circulars, samples and copy letters at home. Reply with stamped envelope. PEERLESS COMPANY, South Bend, Indiana.

ADIES MAKE BIG MONEY selling our Mackintoshes, Dress Shields, Skirt Separators and other useful articles. Catalogue free. Universal Supply Co., 59 Dearborn St., Chicago.

RUBBER Goods and necessary specialties for women and children. Agents 45c per month. Venus Mfg. Co., Chicago.

A BIG OFFER 50c. MADE IN A MINUTE! If you will hang up in the P. O., or some public place, the two show bills that we send, we will give you a 50c. cert., and send it in advance with samples and bills. This will trouble you about one minute, and then if you want to work on salary at \$50. or \$100. per month, let us know. We pay in advance. GIANT OXIE CO., 125 Willow St., Augusta, Me.

WONDERFUL WALKING DOLLS.



A Marvelous Mechanical Curiosity has lately been invented in the doll line. Although made of metal there are no springs to be wound or other encumbering contrivances to get out of order. A simple scientific appliance. They walk naturally and alone as if by some hidden force. Not only are children delighted, but even the happy boyhood and girlhood days are brought back to the older ones who shake their sides and simply roar to see the **Great Race of Races**, as these dolls representing the various male and female characters of different nations are started across the room or table. The life-like manner in which they seem to run past each other in the mad haste to win, or marching single file, tripping each other up or executing other comical feats. The contrast of the different colored jackets or suits, while the Soldier, Chinaman, Negro or little Dollie herself speeds along, adds much to the novelty and enjoyment of the whole family of lookers on. We have secured the right to introduce this wonderful family to the millions all over the Union. To do so quickly and relying on future large sales for our profit, we will send one **FREE**, all charges paid, to any one sending 25 cents for a 6 month's subscription or renewal to our beautiful magazine. Any kind of doll always pleases the children, but **GENUINE WALKING DOLLS** are a joy forever. Address Publishers of **COMFORT**, Augusta, Maine.

A year's subscription and 2 dolls, 50 cents. Get a club of 3 yearly subscribers at 25 cents each and we will send you 3 dolls, all different, **FREE**.

French and Swiss Music Boxes Outplayed by the New

AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN.

THIS ROLLER ORGAN PLAYS ANY TUNE arranged for it, from a Waltz to a Hymn, with perfect tune and time. Gives better satisfaction than a HUNDRED-DOLLAR PARLOR ORGAN and ten times more pleasure. Plays more than 1,000 tunes in a superb manner and charms every listener. The grandest and most marvelous musical instrument ever presented to the public. THE NEW AMERICAN ROLLER ORGAN is operated upon a similar plan to the FINEST FRENCH MUSIC-BOXES. The instrument is thoroughly made. No better work is found in the most expensive musical machinery. A child can operate it. WILL NEVER WEAR OUT. This instrument is the Perfection of musical ingenuity and PLAYS SACRED MUSIC, MARCHES, WALTZES, POLKAS, JIGS, REELS, Selections from Operas, Popular Songs, Church Music, as well as any organ, and is arranged for DANCE MUSIC perfectly. YOU SHOULD HAVE ONE OF THE ABOVE DESCRIBED INSTRUMENTS. Nothing grander or combining so many features can be found in French or Swiss Music-boxes, costing \$100. WE WANT A SPECIAL AGENT, EITHER SEX, IN EVERY LOCALITY, TO SELL OUR REMEDIES, AND OFFER SUCH INDUCEMENTS THAT EARNEST WORKERS CANNOT FAIL TO MAKE \$100 to \$300 PER MONTH. When you order a sample instrument ask for Special Terms. These instruments will be offered for FIVE DOLLARS, IN BEAUTIFULLY CARVED CASES, with music. Send for one. It will fill you with astonishment and delight. If you want it sent C. O. D. send \$1.50 when you order and pay balance \$3.50 when you get organ. Send P. O. Order, Registered Letter or Express Money-order.

We will include a year's subscription to this paper to every one who sends the money in full for an organ. Perhaps you would like to get one and pay us for it in a few hours' work. If such is the case you may raise a club of 32 subscribers to this paper at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, or a club of 17 at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, and we will send you the Roller Organ to pay you for your trouble.



Address, SUNSHINE, Augusta, Maine.

A UNIQUE INVENTION.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.

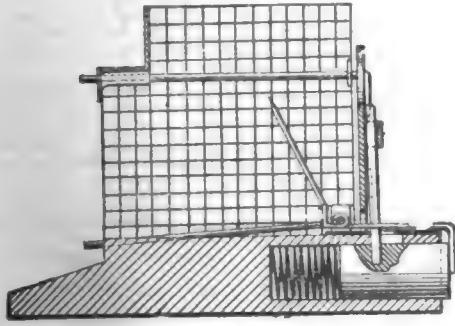


HAT there is nothing new under the sun," is an adage old, though, so far as it concerns the Patent Office, its truth must be questioned, nay—further than that, it must be seriously doubted, in fact, denied. If there is any one place on the face of this terrestrial sphere where there is always something new turning up, it is at the United States Patent Office at Washington. Though, too, it oftentimes happens that things turn up there which, in the minds of the poor, enthusiastically deluded inventors, are just the things that the world has been setting back and waiting for, yea, eagerly and impatiently longing for—whereas an inspection of the prior state of the art will disclose the fact that "there are others" in prolific profusion. By the "state of the art," the uninitiated is to understand is meant the work that has been done by inventors along the line of any particular branch of any of the industrial arts, so that when an inventor applies to the Patent Office for a patent, and, as most all of them do at first, wants the earth (well fenced and terraced), and claims every thing in sight, he is given numerous citations of the earlier patents as references, and is made to mend that part of his application known technically as the "claims," to cover in clear and specific language that part of the device which he believes himself or the office shows him to be inventor of.

It is not a common occurrence for an inventor to secure a patent for a new device without numerous official citations and rejections, and the inventor who is able to rush his case through at the first trial, without having the patent to Smith called to his notice, or Brown's invention cited for his edification and guidance, is a fortunate individual indeed.

Such an inventor turned up recently with an invention of such a novel and radical nature, that, when the readers of "COMFORT" learn its character they will cease to wonder at this inventor's success in expediting the final and favorable disposition of his case.

This remarkable invention is termed an "Ani-



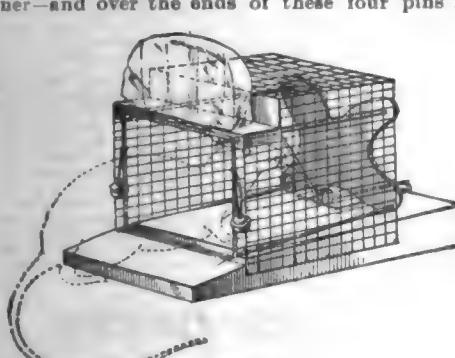
SIDE SECTION.

mal Trap," though, it is not, strictly speaking, a trap, although it well takes the place of that artistic and necessary piece of household furniture, a rat trap. The idea in view, in the manufacture of this trap—the "humane trap," it is called—is not to capture or kill the animal, but merely to attach to it in a secure and 'not-to-be-shook' manner, an elastic band bearing articles of a terrifying nature, such as bells, phosphorescent tufts, etc., and then allowing the animal to go free, to run around among its comrades and by its outlandish and unseemly conduct to scare the other animals away from the neighborhood. Thus the familiar nursery story—of how the old rat, to which a bell had been attached, was allowed to return to his accustomed haunts for the purpose of driving away the other rats, is made to serve as the basis for this latest novelty.

As will be seen from the illustrations, the trap is constructed by taking a block of wood which forms the base, and mounting thereupon a cage-like structure of wire, the cage being left open at both ends. In the rear of the base a recess is formed in which is carried a spring-pressed slide, from which extends upwardly an arm carrying, in vertical position, a flat metal plate—these several parts being adapted to be moved forward against the tension of the spring and held in a set position by a suitable catch and trigger mechanism.

Horizontally mounted on the movable plate the four pins or rods which project in a forward direction, one from each corner of the plate, to the four corners of the open front of the cage, and the pins are adapted to project outward a short distance from the front of the cage when the trap is set—but are withdrawn when the tripping-trigger is sprung and the plate and pins moved inwardly, thus forming a hollow square at the front of the trap, through which the animal must pass in order to reach the bait within. A bait trigger is pivoted within the trap above the recess in the base, and an arm extends rearwardly from this trigger and carries a catch for holding the slide in a set or forward position against the power of the compressed spring.

As above stated, the pins project out beyond the front of the trap-cage—one from each corner—and over the ends of these four pins is



TRAP IN POSITION.

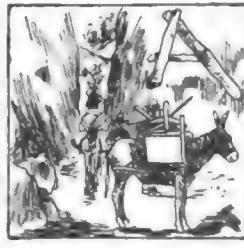
stretched an elastic band to form a hollow square, within which the animal's body rests when it attempts to take the bait from the trigger. The bands which are snared around the body of the beast, are provided with bells

for sounding an alarm, or phosphorescent plumes for the purpose of creating consternation and dread among the occupants of the dark runways through which the frightened, and frightening, animal passes.

When a rat enters the open front of the trap, its body is entirely surrounded by the outstretched elastic band, and when the bait trigger is molested, the spring slide—carrying the plate and projecting pins—is released, and, under the impulse of the spring, the plate is suddenly given a rearward movement and the pins are instantly withdrawn from the hollow square formed by the elastic, and the band is snared securely around the body of the now thoroughly frightened animal, who at once makes a dash for the nearest hole and then continues on a mad round of its accustomed runways, growing more terrified and gaining speed at every bound, and, by reason of the tinkling bells and the fantastic appearance of the waving plumes—which glow in the inky darkness of the favorite runways and tunnels of the swiftly traveling rodent—the other rats become so alarmed that they immediately show signs of vacating the premises and searching for pastures new and quarters more congenial; with the result that they are soon out of the neighborhood, and the house that once knew them well after several such treatments, knows them no more.

BLUE LAKE FARM.

WRITTEN FOR COMFORT.



WAY out in the southern part of Idaho on the Snake river, twenty miles south of the town of Shoshone, lies one of the wonders of nature which has been transformed by the skill, ingenuity and industry of man into a smiling, fruitful valley. The place was called, by the first white men who visited it, the "Devil's Corral," and was then a wide deep hole in the ground, seven hundred feet deep, and containing eight hundred acres of bottom land, its immense walls of volcanic rock rent and torn by some convulsion of Nature. For ages it had lain undisturbed by man save when some wild Indian wandered there in search of game. Its steep walls of rock rendered it almost inaccessible even to them, and it was regarded with superstitious reverence by the simple children of the forest.

At length it occurred to a half breed Indian that gold might be found in its fastnesses of rock, and, accompanied by his Indian wife and two children, he clambered into its depths and made a home there. His mining operations never proved very successful, but his presence there attracted Burt Perrine, an adventurous young man from Indiana, who was roaming about in search of fortune. He made his difficult way into the valley, examined it thoroughly and decided that it would, with some effort, make an excellent fruit farm or ranch. Owing to its high, protecting walls neither northern nor other chilling winds ever found their way in. Snow was unknown, although it might lie ten feet in depth on the land above and around it. Two beautiful lakes, clear as crystal, covering about an acre of space, forty or fifty feet deep and filled with trout, promised water and the means of irrigating the soil, also fish for food. The boulders covering the ground might be cleared up, the bushes exterminated, and a clear field of several hundred acres left for cultivation.

He went away, but soon returned, bought out the miner, obtained a clear title to the whole "hole" and then, with men, horses, tools and blasting powder, he set to work.

The first thing to be done was to make a road over the steep, rocky sides down which horses, burros and wagons might pass. This was a difficult piece of work but was at last satisfactorily accomplished. The heavier articles needed for use in the basin below—wagons, plows, scrapers, harrows, powder and dynamite—were all lowered by ropes over the perpendicular wall seven hundred feet in height; but all was at last completed, the trees planted, and the "Devil's Corral" with its name changed to the "Blue Lakes" to fit its smiling beauty, is now the region of five thousand prosperous fruit trees, besides grapes, strawberries and watermelons. Prunes, pears, apples, peaches and nectarines grow there in great luxuriance, and their owner is fast becoming a wealthy man from their yearly yield. Frosts never touch his land nor broiling sun burn up his young fruit. His lakes are always full, and always at the same temperature—sixty degrees. They are fed by subterranean streams, and their surplus water flows off through underground channels.

With his wife and two beautiful children he lives here a life of content and happiness, undisturbed by the turmoils of the outside world.

Mice Love Music.

It is said that mice love music and have been known to get inside of pianos and scratch on the strings, apparently for the purpose of hearing the tones so produced. It is said that once while a piano was being played in a house, several mice came out upon the hearthrug and began to jump about as though delighted with the music; so absorbed were they that one of them allowed himself to be picked up and carried away in tongs by the housemaid.

EHE dwarf tribes inhabiting the forests near the equator in Africa make a pipe of the midrib of the banana leaf, which is cellular. They get the bore required for the stem by pushing a long, hard river weed through the rib; then they plug the lower end with clay and roll up a piece of banana leaf into a ball, cut a hole in the stem and insert it for a bowl; the sap preventing combustion, as the tobacco burns. The English clay pipe is the principal pipe used in New Guinea, and is generally acceptable as part payment for a day's labor. During the civil war, American soldiers used a pipe, the bowl of which was made from a potato and the stem from a piece of twig from which the pith had been driven.

The Elusive Dragon Fly.

THE dragon fly possesses the unique faculty among winged creatures, birds or insects, of flying backwards and forwards and sideways without turning its body. There are very few insects that the swallow, with its marvelous speed and dexterity, cannot catch, but the dragon fly is one of them. The dragon fly without any apparent trouble, will keep a few feet ahead of a swallow for half an hour at a stretch, and no matter how swiftly the swallow flies, the dragon fly is never just there when it makes its swoop. This is because the swallow has to turn its body. While the dragon fly only reverses its wings.

TOM, is the name of a cat who has a record of covering a distance of 675,000 miles in the past thirteen years. He was only a kitten when he climbed up the sides of the steamer Alameda, of the Oceanic Line, and took refuge in a remote corner until she went to sea.

He made his debut while chasing a rat, when he jumped onto the galley stove. His agony was relieved by the engineer, who carefully dressed his paws, after which Tom was his inseparable companion. When he had travelled 600,000 miles, he was presented with a silver collar by his American admirers in San Francisco, and his friends in Sydney have asked the privilege of presenting him with a gold collar when he finishes his million mile record.

An excellent breakfast for the average person consists of a bowl of well-cooked cereal with a little cream, a slice of whole-wheat bread, and, if he has been accustomed to it, a cup of coffee which is half heated milk with no sugar.

THE EAGLE CLAW,
A WONDERFUL INVENTION.
IN THE WORLD for CATCHING
FISH, ANIMALS, AND ALL
MANNER OF GAME.

A wonderful and most ingenious device. It is easy to set, suited to any bait, can be used anywhere, nothing CAN ESCAPE UNTIL RELEASED. Every fish, muskrat, or squirrel which bites at the bait is surely caught. Perfectly safe for children, will not rust. One bait will catch from 20 to 30 fish. Will spring in any position; in short, it is a grand triumph over the unsafe and uncertain common fish-hook. Highly recommended by the Tribune, World, Press, and the Turf, Field and Farm. The Ohio Farmer says: "The Eagle Claw is a very ingenious article. The best device for catching fish and game we ever saw. Sale, sure and convenient." No. 1 is for all ordinary fishing, the ladies' favorite. No. 2 is for general use, both large and small fish and game. We have sold thousands, and they have all given splendid satisfaction.

We will send a No. 1, Eagle Claw Hook and our splendid monthly paper six months on trial for only 30 cents; or, send us 60 cents and we will send the No. 2, Eagle Claw hook and our paper on trial six months. Price, per dozen, by express, No. 1, \$2.25; No. 2, \$3.50.

Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

PHONO' PARLORS

GIVING PROFITABLE
EMPLOYMENT

Will be established in all parts of the country. Hundreds of thousands of people have never heard a talking machine. Late improvements in the Gramophone Records now make it possible for any one to open up entertainment resources right at home and make a large amount of money without any capital. The latest machines can be relied on to furnish not only the



very best of vocal and instrumental music, but they talk and reproduce all sorts of exquisite voices or sounds in a decidedly clear and distinct manner sounding exactly like the original from which the matter is reproduced. The Talking Machines we are introducing come in a nice box case about a foot long and nearly nine inches wide. They make a very attractive article for home use. The construction is very unique and strong; nothing to get out of order and they are the marvel of the age. For House, Home and Church en-

tertainments we have machines that are just perfect in the required volumes of sound given out that make them marvelous amusement makers and melody producers. We want to establish proper Parlor, Store and Hall and Street amusement centers in every part of the country and require at once one thousand persons in different parts of the United States to either devote part or all of their time to looking after the business or furnish space in their homes in which to display and show up these marvelous machines. Remember you do not have to invest one cent. Simply say you are prepared to co-operate with us and devote part or all of your time to displaying these wonderful phonograms to your friends and neighbors, provided it is proved beyond a doubt to be a money-making profitable employment for you. One thousand of these new machines will be ready to ship, all charges paid, during the next three months. Write at once if you are willing to have one sent to you. This new business will be adapted to all persons from sixteen to sixty years of age.

CONDITIONS. Owing to the extra weight of metal in these indestructible Talking Machines obliging us to send the Phonograms by Express, we pay all shipping charges ourselves, and land the machine free into your home. You keep it as long as you like; make all the money with it you can, without any expense to you whatever. This offer is only made now and this chance to accept comes to you but once in a lifetime.

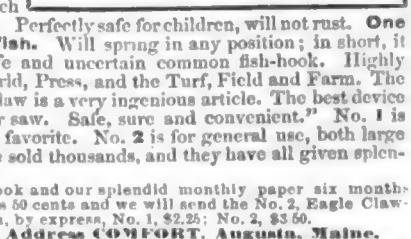
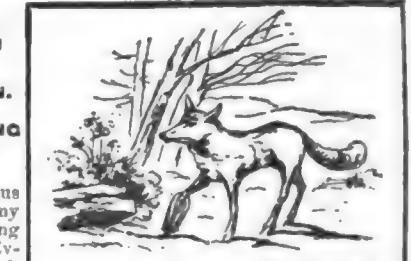
We simply ask you to secure twelve yearly subscribers to Family Herald at 25 cents each to help pay newspaper advertising, etc., etc. We get our profit from future sales of machines, records, etc., caused by the exhibition you give the Phonogram, the good words you say in its favor, etc., and if you make any direct sales we pay you big profits. Send for subscription blanks, additional sample copies of The Herald, etc., and we will reserve a machine for you on notice, so you can get up your club of twelve at once before machines are all shipped to other parties. Address,

FAMILY HERALD. PHONO. DEPT., AUGUSTA, MAINE.

NEW gem has been found in Mexico, which, on account of its resemblance to an eye has been named "Cyclops." It was found by an opal miner who sent it to Chicago to be examined; when the stones were left they were found to be very beautiful. The rough stones resemble a rose, and vary in size from a pea to three-fourths of an inch in diameter. When the stone has been smoothly cut a little red spot shines through, this giving the stone its name. The clear substance surrounding this red center is chalcedony, and the general shape of the stone is hemispherical, with the red ball in the middle of the flat side.

THE feeblest infant, unduly arrived in this vale of tears, may be grown to the right proportions by means of the baby incubators, now in quite common use in the hospitals. The little ones struggle along under glass and the nurse claim that they are more healthy when they leave the incubator than the offspring reared in the way nature intended. The most irritable infant submits to the quieting influence under the gentle, soothing warmth that surrounds the immature little frame. Children of a larger growth whose immature mental and moral calibre would be greatly improved if they could be kept under glass for a period, should receive the attention of scientists!

Empress Augusta Victoria of Germany offers a golden cross to every servant girl in the country who can show a record of forty years of service in one family. Last year she bestowed one hundred and forty-four of these crosses, and only one of them went to the city of Bremen.





CONDUCTED BY REGULUS.

THE year 1899 gives us five eclipses; the first Luna or new moon of the year being a partial eclipse of the sun. The eclipse occurs at about forty-one minutes past five o'clock in the evening, on the 11th day of January. It occurs just after sunset to us on the eastern coast and is consequently invisible at Washington, the seat of government of our country. It is visible in Alaska and the northwestern part of British Columbia, also in Japan and the northeastern part of Russia, and to those regions where visible we are taught we must look for such effects as flow from the obscuration.

At the moment of the ecliptic conjunction, Washington time, Mars will be just rising in the east, and Neptune will be in the lower heaven or the 4th house; while Herschel, Saturn, Venus and Mercury will be in the 5th house, and the conjoined luminaries will be in the 6th.

Mars retrograde and rising points to some unusual excitement or angry discussions at public meetings, if not violence of very lawless character; fires are likely to be unusually prevalent and all are cautioned in this particular to have care; the lunation falling in the 6th points to some unusual sickness, probably of an eruptive character, among the people and particularly among school children; hotels and theaters do not have as favorable season in January as usual and some extraordinary scandal or vicious development at a prominent hotel creates public excitement or unusual press comment. Scandal among theatrical artists or some accident at a theater is likely in this lunation.

Mars rising has a tendency to cause a warlike and contentious sentiment among our people as a nation and will keep alive the patriotic spirit that characterized us in the middle of 1898. Some of this effect will be seen in the last half of January, when also the financial affairs will be in some disorder.

The great benefic Jupiter will be in 4th house and gives us profit from our agricultural productions and healthful conditions on earth that promote advantages to the farming community.

The eclipse being visible in Japan, Russia and China, gives some indications of warlike disorder there and probably some serious earthquake or great disaster in that region of the earth's surface.

CELESTIAL CALENDAR FOR JANUARY, 1899.

JANUARY, 1—Sunday. Not especially favorable as a Sabbath day; pulpit efforts will not be notable for soundness of either logic or judgment. Social matters are adversely affected and the fair sex are unpleasantly disposed.

2—Monday. Use the morning hours for asking favor from persons in authority and push all honorable undertakings vigorously during the first two-thirds of the day; the late afternoon hours will be less agreeable, being likely to bring disappointment and otherwise baffle thy progress; do not employ the afternoon for any kind of transactions pertaining to houses or lands or agricultural productions, nor make any new beginnings in any matters of a literary character; postpone correspondence.

3—Tuesday. Sign no contracts during the early forenoon, when also commercial matters are detrimented or embarrassed. The latter part of the day, on the other hand, should be employed to its fullest extent, preferences being given for artistic work, decoration, painting, dress-making, moulding, architectural designing, chemical processes, compounding ingredients for patent articles, and for electrical work of all kinds; seek audience with the fair sex and press the suit towards matrimony.

4—Wednesday. Choose the forenoon of this day for the purchase and sale of fancy goods, silks, wearing apparel and all articles of adornment and make thy selections of patterning, styles, colors etc., in dress; the day is in the main a good one for all the honorable undertakings in life; the evening forbids thee making any effort to obtain advantages from thine employer.

5—Thursday. Lose no moments of this day but give all thine energies to business; deal in houses and lands, sign deeds, make contracts, do important correspondence, improve the intellect, engage help, travel and deal with lawyers and all persons engaged in the literary pursuits or employed with the pen.

6—Friday. Disputes are likely to mar the events of the forenoon unless the tongue be held well under control; actively pursue thy business as the day advances, however, and thou mayst have more than ordinary assurance of the success of thy reasonable undertakings begun in the afternoon hours, when also money solicitations and transactions are likely to be successful; purchase goods for trade and adjust accounts with persons of wealth.

7—Saturday. Make personal applications for favor or promotion from public men and persons in superior positions or having any kind of authority over thee; engage in chemical and scientific studies and buy electrical and mechanical apparatus, drugs, and sharp instruments.

8—Sunday. A day of intellectual acuteness, executive force, and celerity of movement; though there will be tendencies to sarcasm and bitterness of speech; strange whims and notions become pronounced and the temper will need healthful check; the evening cautions against impatience and suddenly conceived fancies, inducing unpleasantness to the gentle sex and promoting quarrels and ruptures of the tender relations between the sexes.

9—Monday. A singularly evil day; enter not upon new business for no permanent pecuniary advantage will accrue from such now begun; beware of dealings in real estate and be cautious to scrutinize the signatures to commercial paper and against a too ready belief in representations.

10—Tuesday. Pursue vigorously all thine avocations on this day, for thine exertions for pecuniary advantage in all honorable undertakings will meet with more than ordinary success; buy goods for trade and deal with judges, ecclesiastics and the wealthy; seek money accommodations and speculate in stocks if thy nativity also favors at this time; the day increases in benevolence each hour until the late evening.

11—Wednesday. Partial Eclipse of the Sun. Don't take this day for the beginning of any important undertaking, but rather urge the routine duties and economize thy strength and energies for better conditions under which to "bore thy ventures;" the evening and night hours induce quarrels and strife and criminal impulses will be quickened; fires and explosions are to be guarded against; beware of all contention and litigation on this and the following day.

12—Thursday. A very evil day for travel, conducive also to bad fires, strife and contention; let the temper be guarded carefully; have no surgical operations performed; do not get caught in speculative disasters, but be very watchful of the purse and defer making purchases of merchandise for trade. The time is peculiarly unfortunate for persons born about the 10th of March, 28th of May, 10th of June, 14th of July, 10th of September and December, and the 23rd of November, of past years; as such persons are likely to be baffled and defeated in most of their undertakings or are not in the best conditions of health. Let all such persons have the best of care for avoidance of lung and bronchial troubles, protecting the body more than usual during this winter season by woolens and flannels; avoid all chances of business disasters from making changes in their affairs in these passing weeks. Ladies, so born, should be more than usually watchful for the health and welfare of father, husband, brother, or other male relative dear to them, or to whom they look for worldly blessings. To all such persons REGULUS suggests that these are only temporary conditions of mischief which invite the special caution and that those born as indicated should be patient and watchful for a season the better to avert a great measure of the evil and to have confidence that the threatening clouds must roll on ere long and a

brighter condition of things prevail.

13—Friday. Be stirring early and deal with elderly persons, hire houses and lands, and deal with persons in the dirty and laborious occupations; the afternoon invites special activity in the literary pursuits; deal with printers, publishers, booksellers, contractors, and persons in business connected with agriculture.

14—Saturday. The middle hours of this day are disappointing and dealings with railroad officers or persons in government positions do not result favorably. The very early and late hours are best of the day.

15—Sunday. An unpromising day for religious advancement or for success in the pulpit. The brain and nervous energies have suffered considerable detriment during the last ten days and nervous diseases have been inclined to melancholy and despondency, and suicides have become frequent.

16—Monday. Push affairs vigorously during this day, especially such as are connected with the mechanical pursuits or the manufacturing trades; deal in cattle, machinery, leather, cutlery, chemicals or electrical goods and particularly patented articles, but let all classes have care in the use of the pen in the forenoon when the signing of deeds and important contracts and correspondence are best postponed.

17—Tuesday. This day is propitious for music and art, and for pursuit of the elegant occupations; dealers in fancy goods, embroideries, milliners and jewelers should urge their business on this day. The time is favorable for the fair sex and for the pleasures and gratifications of life.

18—Wednesday. Bridle the tongue during this day and avoid contentions of all kinds; have no surgical operations performed that can be avoided, nor deal with chemists, butchers or bakers; look out for fires and explosions; let all have care in the handling or care of fire, hot liquids and chemicals and avoid accidents from such sources as well as from steam and electricity. These suggestions are particularly appropriate for persons born on or about the 18th of January or April, or the 21st of July or October, of past years, for the majority of such persons are now likely to be physically and mentally feverish and excitable; oversensitive in feeling; in the midst of controversy or contention; peculiarly rash in thought, deed, or act, and should especially avoid travel or otherwise placing themselves in the way of harm or loss from accident, or of danger from eruption and inflammatory troubles. Many of the persons born as indicated are threatened with severe money losses either from fire or through unwise speculations.

19—Thursday. Be not rash in thy business ventures nor invest thy capital in stock on this day; the conditions induce money losses and unwise and exhaustive payments; keep a strict eye upon the purse and all inclinations to expend thy means.

20—Friday. This day is full of energy and enterprise and invites activity in all the walks of life, but especially for machinists, engineers, mechanics, travellers, surgeons, electricians, military men, cutlers, and iron and brass workers; consult thy dentist and experiment in chemistry.

21—Saturday. Have no important dealing on this day with very aged persons or those in public office, and beware of wasting thine energies in the pursuit of foolish projects or delusive schemes for improving pecuniary circumstances; patents and novelties offering on this day will prove to be poor investments.

22—Sunday. Evil conditions interfere with the general benevolence of this day; expose not thyself to disappointment.

23—Monday. An indifferent day, when conditions are not particularly conducive to success in any venture.

24—Tuesday. Improve every moment of this day; purchase goods for trade, deal with bankers, clothiers, woolen dealers, judges and persons engaged in the ecclesiastical callings.

25—Wednesday. Avoid litigation, and do not indulge in bitterness of speech; humor the whims and notions of thine associates rather than seek to correct them; the day promotes combustibility and may witness some bad fires; have care in handling animals and chemicals; persons in the mechanical callings are adversely affected.

26—Thursday. Ask no favor of persons in authority; deal not in real estate; buy no merchandise for trade and see that the purse is not lost or its contents wasted; do not speculate or solicit pecuniary advantages from banks or wealthy persons.

27—Friday. Diligently improve the beneficial influences which prevail on this day for all the elegant pursuits; architectural and horticultural studies, furnishing and decorating real estate, landscape work and animal painting; deal in such commodities as coal, iron, petroleum, wood, lumber, lead, wool, and grain; the evening will give pleasure from the drama or musical entertainment, when also social gatherings will be agreeable, notwithstanding the weather may be stormy.

28—Saturday. An indifferent day, giving but little promise of profit or advantage from undertakings now begun; push routine work and duties; postpone every important correspondence and have care in all matters of account that errors are not committed.

29—Sunday. An excellent day for all purposes for which it is appropriate; though the financial interests of religious organizations are considerably injured in these passing days.

30—Monday. Make no contracts pertaining to houses or lands during the forenoon hours, when the artistic pursuits are adversely affected; more than ordinary prudence and circumspection will need to be exercised by the gentle sex with reference to health and deportment, especially such as were born about the 11th of March, June, September or December, of past years. All marriageable persons born about these dates are likely to be much disturbed in mind over their affairs of heart or in their social surroundings. Young gentlemen, as born, should check all impulses towards foolish gratifications either of appetite or passions. Many of them now learn of the fickleness of the human heart. The afternoon of this day invites special activity in the mechanical pursuits, experiments in chemistry, and dealings with military men, druggists, bakers, tailors, carpenters, machinists and engineers.

31—Tuesday. Use this day for applications to public authorities or officers of great corporations, for favor or advantage of any kind in thine affairs; make changes of habitation, travel, and deal with persons noted for eccentricity of habit or dress; attend to patent matters, and such as are novel and original.

FEMALE DISEASES AND THE PILES.

I have discovered a positive cure for all female diseases and the piles. It will cure even the very worst cases, and I will gladly mail a free box to every sufferer. Address, Mrs. C. B. MILLER, Box 46, Kokomo, Ind.

A cubic foot of newly fallen snow weighs five and a half pounds and has twelve times the bulk of an equal weight of water.

FREE TO INVALID LADIES.

A safe, simple home treatment that cured me after years of suffering with uterine troubles, displacements, leucorrhoea, etc., sent free to ladies with full instructions how to use it. Address Mrs. L. Hudnut, South Bend, Ind.

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30 Days' Trial

The marvelous power exerted by my Electric Belt and Appliances, induces me to offer it to suffering men on 30 Days' Trial, so certain am I that it will cure and that you will gladly pay for the use of it. To men who have battered their stomachs with drugs I want them to exercise their judgement and consider that Electricity is the greatest power on earth. Its unseen current puts life and force into whatever it touches. The constant, steady life extended by my New Electric Appliances gives instant relief and never fails to cure Rheumatism, Backache, Nervous Troubles, Early Decay, Night Fright, Lack of Nerve Force and Vigor, Nervous Debility, Undevelopment and Lost Vitality. You may not have faith in it now, but

WEAR IT FOR 30 DAYS and you will then realize why I have such confidence in it to send it to you ON TRIAL. Write today for Illustrated Pamphlet with references and signed testimonial. Sent free in plain sealed envelope.

PROF. A. CHRYSTAL, Inventor, 180 Postoffice Block, Marshall, Mich.

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LOST MANHOOD

5 DAYS' TRIAL TREATMENT FREE

Prof. Jules Laborde's Wonderful French Restorative

"CALTHOS"

No C.O.D. or Deposit Scheme. Food for Thought.

As a man grows in years, his system gives out here and there. If no help be sought from Science, the trouble grows worse. When the eyesight fails, skilled oculists and opticians soon make the patient see as well as ever. If the teeth decay the expert dentist builds them up permanently with gold, and restores them to their old-time usefulness. If deafness comes, specialists in the treatment of the ear quickly bring back the sense of hearing. So it goes until we reach that infirmity commonly called Lost Manhood. The man so afflicted may well be pitied. His thoughts go back to the days of youth, when his veins tingled with the vigor of strength, power and ambition; when he mingled in society and was a real man. Possibly you, the reader of this notice, are so afflicted. If that be true, you can have your infirmity cured, just as failing eyesight, hearing and teeth can be corrected.

CALTHOS.—There is a great French remedy named CALTHOS, which restores men to vigor and strength in the organs of true manhood. It cures Varicose and all weaknesses caused by excesses, overwork or indulgence in stimulants, and develops small or shrunken parts. It is the only discovery of Science which does this. There are many men in Congress, in the Stock Exchanges, in great business houses of large cities—professional men, farmers, laborers—who have had their powers of youth brought back by CALTHOS. You can tell them by the brightness of their eyes, by their erect carriage, by the vigorous, virile way they go about the duties of life.

CALTHOS is the discovery of the celebrated Paris physician, Prof. Jules Laborde. It is sold in America, Canada and Mexico, by The Von Mohl Co., of Cincinnati, Ohio, the largest importers of standard medicines in the United States, which is well known for its reliability and high standing in the profession.

This company never, under any circumstances, makes public the names of its patients, although thousands write every year expressing great joy at their recovery. All correspondence relating to the CALTHOS branch of their business is confidential and is kept separate and distinct from their general business.



FREE TRIAL TREATMENT.

To satisfy the doubtful and to show the wonderful strengthening powers of CALTHOS, a five days' trial treatment will be sent FREE to all weak men who write and ask for it. It will be forwarded in a sealed package by mail.

Those who write should remember who they are; they are reliable and responsible and have no connection with the disreputable practice of sending goods C.O.D. No deposit is required. Simply tell them you will give CALTHOS a fair trial for five days and it will be sent absolutely free. Address THE VON MOHL CO., 283 B. Cincinnati, Ohio. Largest Importers of Standard Preparations in the United States.

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explained; the power within us. How to Mesmerize. Send stamp for particulars. ADDRESS FRANK MOLONEY, 131 O, Ashland bl., Chicago.

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LADIES when Doctors and others fail to relieve

you, try S. R. & S. W. It never fails, one full treatment free. MRS. E. STAR, St. Louis, Mo.

YOUR FUTURE LIFE COMPLETE IN LOVE. MARSHALL & BROWN, 1000 N. Michigan Ave., Chicago.

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Book, it tell how to avoid the ill of pregnancy and make childbirth safe and easy.

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SILVER CAKE



We have lately taken a large amount of triple plate silverware on a debt and will send you this Elegant, Gold lined Silver Cake Basket free, all charges paid for a club of seven subscribers to COMFORT at 25c. each. This Cake Basket is of the latest pattern and will wear a life time. It is the finest silver plate, highly decorated with beautiful patent rolled edge. We only have ~~many~~ ~~several~~ of them left so get up your club of seven subscribers at 25c. each, to-day, and you will always enjoy it. You can sell this basket for \$3.98 in a minute. If you can't get up the club, send us \$1.38 cash and we will send the Basket by express and include one year's subscription to "COMFORT." We also have a fine five Bottle Silver Castor and a Superb Silver Butter Dish at the same price if you prefer either one to the Basket. Address,

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

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FREE



CHATELAINE WATCH

In An Elegant Case FREE.

Every Lady needs just such a Watch. No matter if she has a \$50.00 one it won't keep any better time and this is for use and every-day wear. It will last a life time. It is an entirely new pattern. The Pin is good size, strong and handsome. Yet pretty as a picture! Best of all, we got a Bargain on them, for the Makers are anxious to get them introduced, so we can sell hundreds where one goes first. We will send one, packed in the satin-lined, Morocco covered case free, if you get up a club of only 10 subscribers to COMFORT at the special price of 25 cents per year. You can easily sell this Watch for \$5.00 if you want to, but after you get it you won't part with it for any money. Send us the 10 names and \$2.50 and the watch is yours, free. If any man has a sweetheart and wants to make her happy, he should get her this Watch at once. Sent for \$2.50 cash. Address

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BEAUTIFUL LACE REMNANTS.

Upwards of \$2 worth of fine Laces for 25 cents. Here is a chance to get valuable, rich and elegant Lace Remnants for almost nothing. Having bought a big lot of Laces at auction, representing every imaginable pattern and quality of Laces, at about one-tenth part of their real value, we are enabled to offer some most astonishing bargains. We put up large assorted packages of these Laces, which, though costing but 25 cents, represent real values of \$2 and upwards. These remnants include some of the finest White Laces, Linen Torchon Laces in exquisite patterns, Spanish and Languedoc Cream Laces, Black Chantilly Laces, Guipure, Valenciennes, Oriental and American Laces, Swiss Embroidery Trimmings, and in fact samples of almost every kind known to the trade. The manifold uses to which these laces can be applied will appear to every lady reader, or to her male friends who wish to make an acceptable present, as no such bargains has hitherto been offered. Ladies will find them very useful for trimming all kinds of underwear, dresses, aprons, pillow-shams, tidiess, etc., etc.; they can also be used to advantage in ornamenting childrens and infants' clothing, as each package contains such a variety, it can be used for trimming the apparel of the infant or the adult. We send them in various lengths, from one yard up to three and four yards. Our lady readers should not fail to take advantage of this great offer to procure fine laces for a mere song. Price of this valuable package of laces only 25 cents, or two packages for 40 cents. Sent by mail, postpaid.

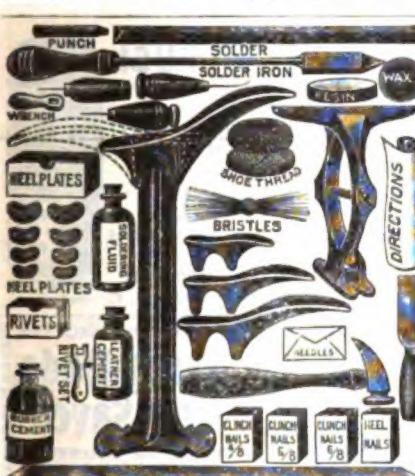
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Premium Offer. We will send one package of this beautiful lace to any person who will send us the names of two

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A Complete Outfit of 44 Tools FREE.

GREATES MONEY MAKER AND MONEY SAVER EVER SEEN: NEEDED IN EVERY HOUSE IN THE WORLD.

Hundreds of dollars are wasted every year in paying for repairs which could be done by you just as well as by the person you hire. "Yes," you will say, "I could do this work if I only had the tools." You have to hire the plumber or cobbler and pay him for his time while you stand around and look on, watching him do the work which you could do as well as he, but it is always that you have no tools. We have put together the best kit of tools for repairing which was ever seen, and we will sell the entire outfit for less than half the money for which you could buy it at any store. The outfit consists of forty-four first-class tools, as shown in the above cut, viz: 1 iron last for men's work; 1 iron last for boy's work; 1 iron last for women's work; 1 iron last for children's work; 1 iron stand for lasts; 1 shoehammer; 1 shockknife; 1 peg awl handle; 1 peg awl; 1 wrench for peg awl handle; 1 sewing awl handle; 1 sewing awl; 1 stabbing awl handle; 1 stabbing awl; 1 bottle leather cement; 1 bottle rubber cement; 1 bunch bristles; 1 ball shoe thread; 1 ball shoe wax; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 4-8 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 3-5 in.; 1 pkg. clinch nails, 6-8 in.; 1 pkg. heel nails; 4 prs. heel plates, assorted sizes; 6 harness needles; harness and saw clamp; 1 box slotted rivets, assorted sizes; 1 rivet set for same; 1 harness and belt punch; 1 soldering iron, ready for use; 1 handle for same; 1 bar solder; 1 bar resin; 1 bottle soldering fluid; 1 copy directions for soldering; 1 set of tools, together with 10 directions for use, in a case; 1 box of tools, including all hardware, store separately. **WOULD COST BETWEEN \$7.00 AND \$9.00.** You can repair boots and shoes, repair leather, mend them, mend your harness or make a new one, mend all kinds of harness, repairings, plumbing and similar work, and do all kinds of leather work about carriages, etc., as well as repairing all kinds of articles. The clamp is used for mending harness and fitting saws. Has a leather bag and is made of iron. **YOU CAN EASILY SAVE FIVE TIMES THE COST OF THIS OUTFIT IN SIX MONTHS** and make a heap of money doing little repairs for your neighbors and others. "A stitch in time saves nine," and if you have these tools in your house, you can make repairs and save a great deal of money which you would pay if you let a break go or hired a man to do your repairing work for you. Every one of these tools are full sized, practical, neat and cheap. It is the only complete outfit in the market and thousands have been sold in past years for \$3.00 when the outfit contained but about half as many smaller articles to people living in the country and small towns as well as in the city. This repairing outfit, weighing 20 lbs., will be sent by freight, complete as above described for **ONLY \$2.50** which includes a 6 months' trial subscription to this paper.

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HA! HA! HA! FUN ALIVE!

The Comical Mirror.

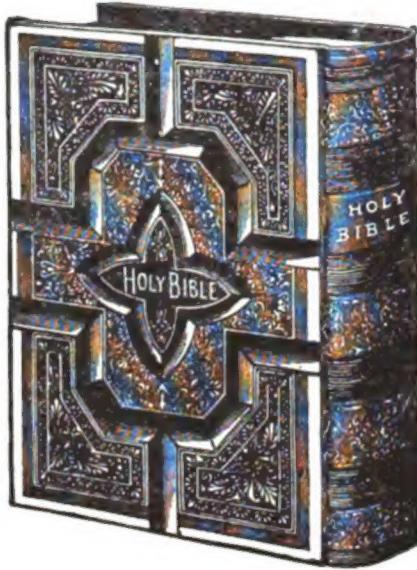
A handsome convex mirror in a case suitable for carrying in the pocket. For many years the funniest and most laughable attraction in nearly every museum has been the large convex mirror in which a person appears drawn out as long and narrow as a bean pole, or flattened down like a gridiron with a face as broad as a cellar door. This mirror produces the same effect as the large and expensive mirrors in the museums. By holding the mirror in an upright position stout people look thin and in a horizontal position thin people look stout; anyone can recognize themselves at once, but their features are so distorted and their general appearance so changed that they cannot fail to have a good laugh over it. If you have a friend (lady or gentleman) who think they are a little better looking than anyone else, let them take a peep into the mirror and it will take them down a peg or two—either the "short and fat" view or the "long and slim" view are stunners and will cure the blues every time. Send for one it will afford you lots of fun.

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Address COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.



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This edition excels all others in the excellence of paper and exquisite topography, being printed from an entirely new set of plates costing \$20,000. The size of page is 12x9 inches, the print large and clear, and there are TEN BEAUTIFUL FULL-PAGE PHOTOGRAVURE PICTURES of rare artistic excellence and some of the most superb masterpieces of Modern Paintings, being in harmony with the justly celebrated OXFORD TEACHERS' BIBLES. They are bound in fine Morocco Buckram Panelled Sides, and contain the Old and New Testaments, authorized version, the best concordance extant, and the following helpful features: A table of the passages in the Old Testament quoted in the New; a Chronological Index; an analysis of the Old and New Testaments; an account of the date of writing the books of the New Testament; an index of the Holy Bible; a short description of the Holy Land; a table of kindred forbidden to marry; table of Scripture weights and measures; an alphabetical table of proper names; also a very neat, plain Marriage Certificate and Family Record. Our New Bible is just what the people want; excellent paper, handsome illustrations, good, clear print, handsome and durable bindings, and last but not least, an EXTRAORDINARY FAMILY RECORD, entirely different from that contained in any other Bibles in the country. The print is of large size, clear and distinct, just right for grandfather and grandmother to read without their glasses, while the full-page engravings will interest and instruct the little children. It is the book for every member of the family.

Our price by mail or express, charges fully paid to your post-office, is only \$1.89. Only think of it! A Bible, 12x9 inches, weighing more than four pounds, for \$1.89! In addition to the Bible we will give a year's subscription to this paper; or raise a club of eight subscribers at our special subscription price of 25 cents a year each, or a club of 16 at our special club rate of 15 cents a year each, and we will send it free as a premium. Address

COMFORT, Augusta, Maine.

The Victoria Stamping Outfit.

More Artistic Patterns for the Money than were ever Dreamed of.

It has been our special pleasure to select designs for this collection for our artistic friends. Illustration A shows a floral and ribbon design which can be used for almost anything the dainty worker has use for. The flowers are best executed in Kensington stitch, the ribbon may be either simple outline, outline filled in with feather, herring-bone or cat stitch, or, what is still more effective, the long and short stitch. Illustration B is a dainty little design for monograms or what-nots.

Note the sizes of the designs named below and the number of sheets of patterns in this outfit.

- 1 Very Handsome Centerpiece of Carnations, 17x17 inches.
- 1 Pretty Corner-piece of Pansies and Leaves, 6x6 inches.
- 1 Design of Strawberries and Leaves for Dolly, 5x5 inches.
- 1 Design Orchid and Leaves for Scarf Corner, 6x6 inches.
- 1 Clover Design for Dolly.
- 1 Design for Baby's Bib, Rosebuds and word Baby, 4x4.
- 1 Design for Cheese Dolly, 3x3 inches.
- 1 Design for Shoe Bag, 5x10.
- 1 Design for Shaving Bag with Motto, 6x6.
- 4 Fruit Designs for Fruit Plate Dollies, 3x3 inches.
- 1 Design for Carving Cloth, 11x15 inches.
- 1 Design for Tumbler Dolly, 4x4.
- 1 Pretty Corner Design for Tea-cloth, Jewel Work, 9x9.
- 1 Design for Table Dolly, 8x8.
- 1 Design for Water Bottle Dolly, 6x6.
- 4 Designs for Butter Plate Dollies, 3x3 inches.
- 1 Cut Work Dolly Design, 5x5.
- 1 Very Pretty Design for Corner, Battenberg Work, 7x7.
- 1 Design for Border with Corner, 5x5.
- 1 Floral Corner Geranium, 6x6 inches.
- 1 Design Water Lily for Dolly.

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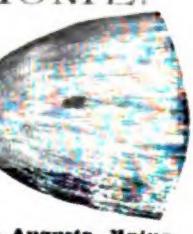
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Men, Women and Things.

CONDUCTED BY JENNIE MELVENE DAVIS.



Helen Gould is an admirable type of balanced, self-contained, generous, American womanhood. Through the golden haze of the glamour her millions throw about her she stands out clearly and sharply, a practical, sensible, loyal, patriotic, American girl. Her wealth has not spelled self-indulgence to her but opportunity—opportunity to help the helpless, to comfort sick children, to aid the needy soldiers and to redeem the name of Gould from a synonym for mere greed of money. The name of Jay Gould was feared and hated from the powers of Wall Street to the dwellers in the far East side slums. He died and no tithe of his millions went for a charitable or philanthropical purpose. Four sons were left but they have not changed public opinion as to the Gould traits. George Gould married an actress, Edith Kingdon—his brother Howard has just sacrificed \$5,000,000 by marrying the woman of his choice without the consent of his family. His wife, Kathryn Clemons, was also an actress. Anna, the youngest daughter, made a brilliant society marriage and is spending her share of the Gould millions merrily with her French Count. Helen Gould is a simple, natural young woman—not at all "strong minded" but earnest and serious. She is not indifferent to the charm of dress, is interested in athletics, is a great reader and a sympathetic friend. From the time she left the schoolroom her name has been connected with charitable efforts. For a time this was looked upon simply as the fad of a society girl. Helen Gould entered the Woman's Law Class at the University of New York and graduated from it with high honors. In every way she has endeavored to fit herself to be a judicious almoner of the wealth at her command. It is not alone that she gives generously and freely of the fortune that is hers but she gives time, care, attention to the manner of giving. She gives herself first and the wealth that is hers, last. She has shrunk from any publicity in the matter, but at the outbreak of the war her rampant patriotism overcame all her shrinking from the public eye and she came forward with her instant offer to the Secretary of War of \$100,000. From that time she has been prodigal of health, wealth and time in her devotion to the cause. She has personally visited the camps and hospitals. In her beautiful home at Irvington she has nursed many soldiers back to health. Here she gathered the needy women and paid them liberally to work for the soldiers. No woman who works every day for a livelihood has a busier life than this woman of millions. She has one woman secretary and each day brings its enormous mail connected with the various enterprises under her care. Helen Gould has redeemed the name she bears from the stain that an unscrupulous greed for gold has placed upon it, and the crippled child and the strong man dying for the flag see Helen Gould, not as the inheritor of wealth, but as a gracious, noble-minded woman, whose greatest fortune is in her own personality.

The Empress of China, who is the real power behind the "Dragon's Throne," is the strongest personal influence of the day whose personality is almost unknown. The seclusion that Chinese women of high rank maintain seems to hide this Empress who has stood between the threatening power of Russia on one hand and of England on the other, and who has preserved her life and her influence in the mystery of intrigue, assassination and rebellion that marks Oriental dynasties. Tuen, Empress-Dowager of China, was a slave girl in the Province of Hungary. Her master was Viceroy of the province and the little slave girl gained his favor by a beautiful New Year gift. When he asked how he should reward her she answered: "O wisest and best of men I would like to learn to read." This was an unheard of request in China but the Viceroy was kind and curious and asked the little slave girl why she wished

to learn. "That I may be wise and therefore good and being both of these the better able to serve the Viceroy," answered the slave who was one day to be Empress. A silver casket was recently presented to her and within was a book inscribed "Scriptures for the Salvation of the World"—a present from the Christian women of China. In time the slave girl who could read, entered the household of the Emperor and then became Empress of the Flower Kingdom. While comparatively little is known of her it is certain that she is a woman of strong character and of great ability. She seized the reins of power at a threatening crisis but the final outcome of her influence is yet problematical.

The capture of Omduram by Gen. Kitchener writes "finis" at the end of one of the most exciting and romantic chapters of modern history. It avenges the death of Gen. Gordon and the doom of Khartoom. In place of the victorious figure of the Mahdi we have the conquered Khalifa. Abdulla Ibre Sayed Mahmud Khalifa el Mahdi is one of the most interesting figures of the age, representing as he does the last mighty convulsive effort of a lost cause. He has resisted the onward march of an aggressive civilization and over one hundred thousand square miles of territory he has ruled supreme. He presents a strange mixture of fanaticism and cold common sense, of tricky cunning and whole souled generosity, of utter ignorance and of trained diplomacy. He was the chief adviser of the Mahdi and it was the Khalifa who planned the campaign that resulted in the capture of Khartoom. The Mahdi urged his followers to put complete trust in his mainstay the Khalifa saying, "All those who believe in God and in me must also believe in him, and should any one notice anything apparently wrong in him they should attribute it to a mystery which they cannot understand and that therefore it must be right." The Khalifa showed a sense of fair play as keen as that of any Yankee and in his treatment of Slatin Pasha he showed a generous kindness even though he was not deceived by the subtleties of the white man. The Khalifa dresses in the most humble of garments and urges humility, sincerity and honesty upon all his followers. He taught his followers to ride fearlessly into battle urged on by the war cry "Fi shan Allah wa Rasulahu (For God and His Prophet)." Clothed in patchwork and rags with no other weapons than swords and spears they charged directly at troops armed with the modern murderous rifles. Crying "Allahu Akbar, Allahu Akbar (God is Great) they rode fearlessly to their death. The Khalifa forbids mourning for the dead who he says are assured of bliss if believers. This man of the desert has built a powerful empire out of a wild and barbarous race. For years he has held the Soudan against English power and held his wild followers through their religious belief. Scarcely able to read and write he has shown that intuitive knowledge of men and affairs that always marks a great leader. He has taught his followers doctrines as austere as those of the early Puritans. Bad language was punished with eighty lashes of the whip, dancing and playing were discouraged. He has ruled autocratically and absolutely a people as little susceptible of control as the whirlwind. In one of his exhortations he preaches a doctrine of absolutism that rings strangely in the democratic nineteenth century. "Obey my orders and the joys of Paradise will be yours. Those who are disobedient and do not take heed to my words are lost, for them, as for the disbeliever, eternal damnation and hell fire are prepared." This is the man whom Gen. Kitchener has conquered.

Viceroy of India! It is a proud position and a proud title, second in rank in the British Empire. It is safe to say, however, that the Right Honorable George Nathaniel Curzon will bear himself in a manner that will seem to patronize even this great position. His friends call this air "a quiet consciousness of his own sufficiency," while his enemies consider it the supercilious self-sufficiency of youthful success.

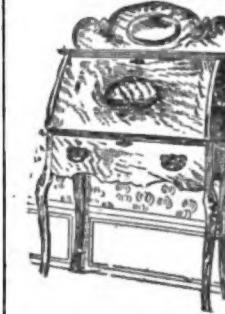
Whatever it may be, it is certain that the life of George Curzon has been singularly successful. He has been constantly in the public eye for the past ten years. He is a University bred man who carried off two prizes at Oxford and a fellowship at All Souls. He entered political life when he won the seat in Parliament from Southport—a seat he has held ever since. No Viceroy of India with the exception of Lord Lawrence has known so much of the country. He knows so much that he may have much to unlearn. All his holidays and vacations have been spent in travel in Asiatic Russia, India, Persia and the land that lies "east of Suez." In the last Conservative government he was Under Secretary for India and under Lord Salisbury he is Under Secretary for foreign affairs. He is an advocate of the "forward policy" on the northwest frontier. He has encountered much advance criticism on account of the unchecked advance of Russia in China, and his defense of the Salisbury administration of foreign affairs has done much in the last year to give him a brilliant Parliamentary record. George Curzon has the genius for hard work and united with it an extreme readiness of speech that is akin to eloquence. His published letters to the *London Times* fill two large volumes and contain an immense quantity of definite data in regard to the East. His personal knowledge of the Northwest frontier was gained upon horseback and so minute is it that he was the only member of Parliament who could correct the error in the speech of a member who did not know the location of the Kohat pass. George Curzon can boast of the claims of long descent, for although his father is a poor country parson, he is fourth Baron Scarsdale and his family dates back eight hundred years. The title of Baron Curzon of Kedleston has just been conferred upon the new Viceroy. The Viceroy of India resides in Calcutta in a rent free palace with horses, coaches and servants also furnished by a liberal government. His salary is over \$7000 a month but the larger part of this sum must be spent in entertaining in a gorgeous style, for the Orientals love display and the Viceroy must impress them with the magnificence of the British Empire.

"Ask me not here to turn a careless rhyme. It ill would suit the solemn place and hour, When Haddo's Lord bears to a distant clime The Gordon conscience backed by Britain's power." These are the lines which our Secretary of State, Col.

John Hay wrote in the visitors' book of Haddo House just before its owner, Lord Aberdeen, sailed to become Governor-General of Canada. After five successful years, Lord Aberdeen terminated his official residence during the month of November. Lord Aberdeen stands in the foremost ranks of England's peers by virtue of his personality and his rank. His brother, the sixth Lord Aberdeen, threw aside his position and worked for years as an ordinary seaman. His wild adventurous life ended as strangely as it had proceeded. The sea claimed its own, and the younger brother became Lord Aberdeen. His family traces far back to the days of Richard the Lion Hearted. It has numbered great men and statesmen in its lists from Lord Aberdeen the loved Prime Minister of Victoria's young queenhood to the scholarly and practical statesman who just resigned the rule of "Our Lady of the Snows." Lord Aberdeen has just passed the half century mark although his fondness for physical exercise has kept him singularly youthful. He is a skilled rifle shot. He identified himself with the Liberal party and when the Gladstone ministry of 1886 was formed Lord Aberdeen was asked to become Viceroy of Ireland. He accepted this trying honor and during his brief rule succeeded in establishing most friendly relations between himself and the Irish people. For the first time in the history of English rule in Ireland the Lord Mayor of Dublin and the Viceroy of Ireland were on friendly terms. Lord Aberdeen is a practical locomotive engineer. As a schoolboy he spent much time on the engine of a local railway and finally mastered all the details from the duties of the fireman to those of the engineer. This knowl-

edge gave him his first start in public life. The question of a select committee on railroad matters came up in the House of Lords and Lord Aberdeen made his first speech relative to this subject. The expert knowledge that he displayed gained him the attention of the House and an important place on the committee when it was finally named. The celebrated Plimsoll bill on the sending to sea of ships that endangered seamen's lives led to the establishing of a Commission and Lord Aberdeen was made Chairman. He reconciled the warring elements there represented and won the esteem and admiration of all by his courteous but unwavering decisions. Lord Aberdeen has a wide interest in philanthropic affairs and a keenly intelligent grasp of social and political problems of the day. He has given Canada a wise administration and returns to his Scottish home with the love and esteem of the great dependency over which he has ruled. Lord Aberdeen is exceedingly democratic in his tendencies. His affability and courtesy are proverbial and his genial nature almost leads careless observers to forget the strong positive character behind this seeming disregard of the conventionalities of his rank. Haddo House in Scotland is the home of the Aberdeens but they also possess local "habitations" at Vernon in British Columbia, in Grosvenor Square, London, and at the suburb of Dollis Hill. They entertain largely and the visitors' book at Haddo House has many other interesting facts and fancies besides the one with which Col. Hay gave them a "God-speed" in their coming to Canada.

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